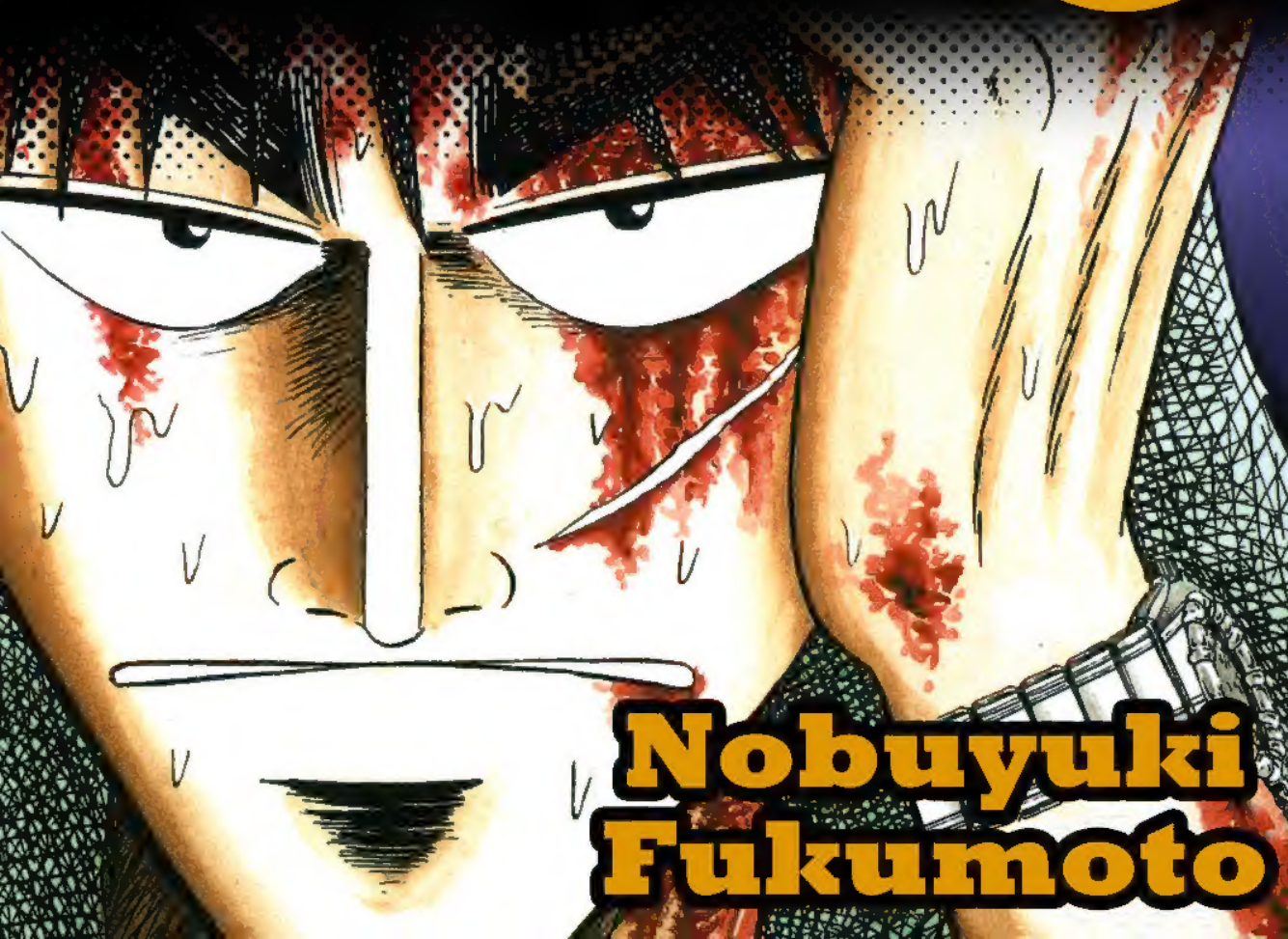
Gambling Apocalypse Kaiji

11



Nobuyuki Fukumoto

Chapter:119 Determination

Chapter:120 Obstruction

Chapter:121 Final Curtain

Chapter:122 A Vengeful God

Chapter:123 Steadfast

Chapter:124 Insight

Chapter:125 Deception

Chapter:126 Double or Nothing

Chapter:127 Blood, Sweat and Tears

Chapter:128 Trials and Tribulations

Chapter:129 Recollections

Chapter:130 Body and Soul

Gambling Apocalypse Kaiji

Kaiji-san ...!
K...
HAH...
HAH...
I have to do this...
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...
Why did you do that...!?
Why ...!?
Ngh ...!
...in order to win.
HEAVE...
I have to do this...
10

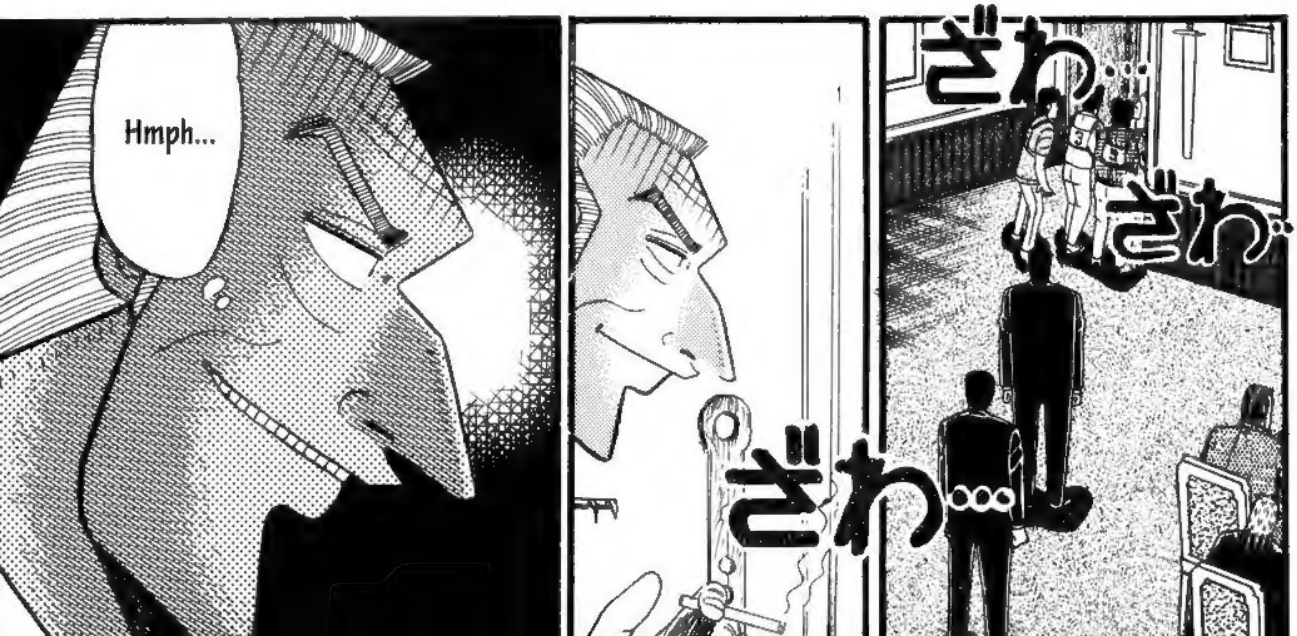
Chapter 119: Determination

Ah...!
Ahh...!
BASH
K-
Kaiji
-san...!
Please
....
BASH
BASH
BASH
KERRASH
Stop...!
Kaiji-san...!

Kaiji-
san
...!
THUD
THUD
K-Kaiji
-san...!
This
time
...
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...
Punch
me...!
...
you
do it
...
What
...!?
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...

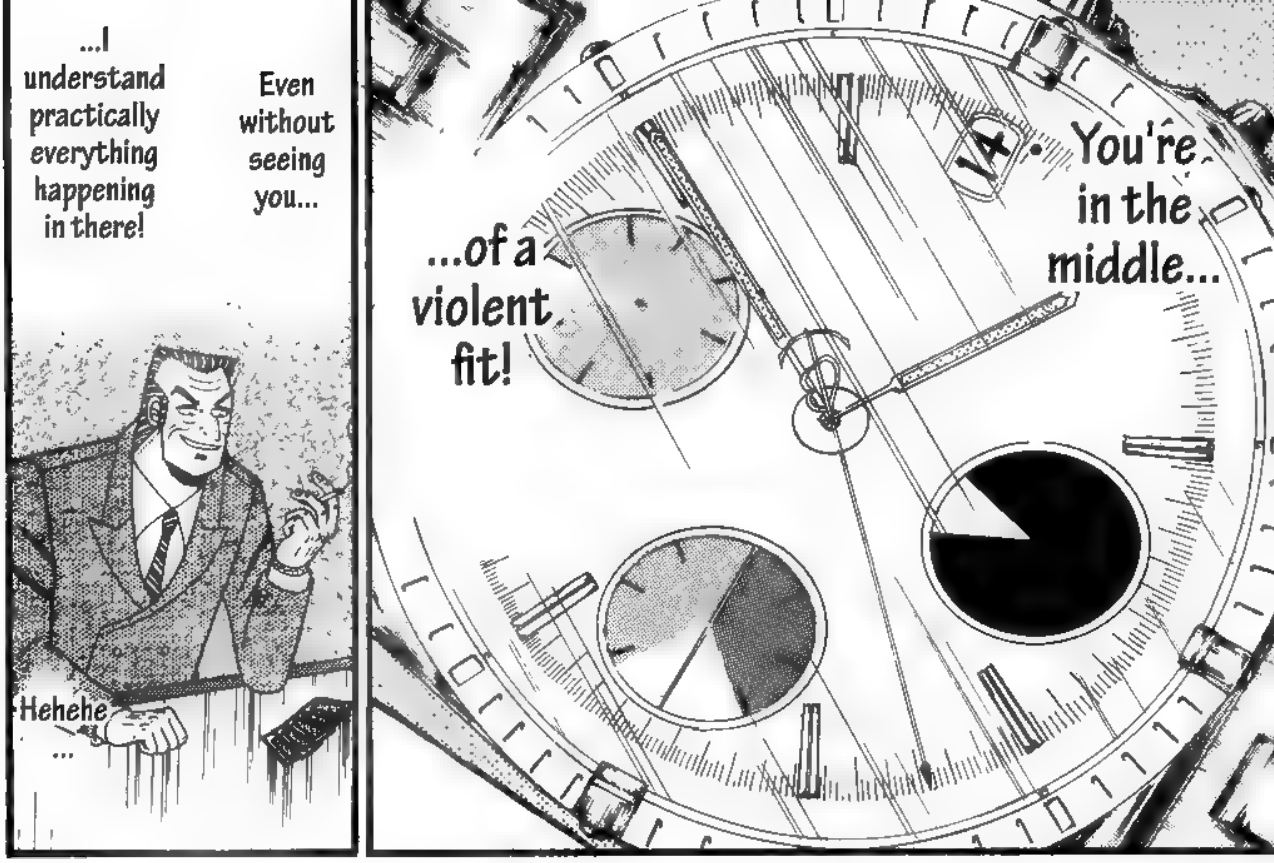
Punch me...!
POW
JOSTLE

ざわ…
ざわ
POW


Hmph...
ざわ…
ざわ
ざわ…

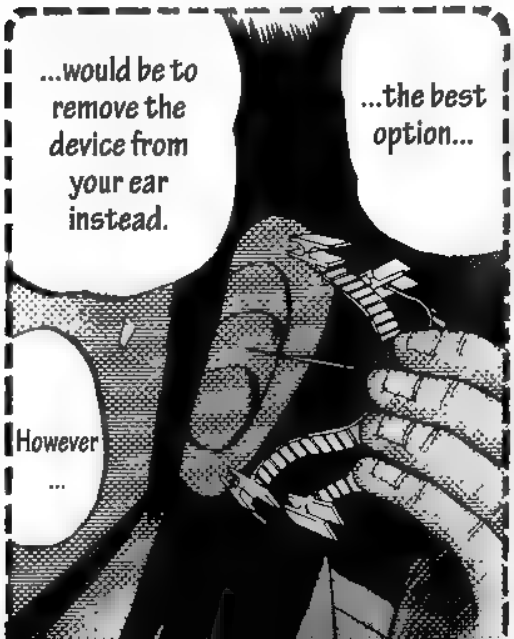
Hehehe...
...you've finally caught on.
It's just as you suspect.
That's right...
Ahh!
WHACK
Aiee!
CRASH
Well, well...
It looks like...

...even how much you perspire ...
It also senses your pulse, your body temperature, your blood pressure...
...wasn't designed simply to rupture the eardrum.
That device on your ear...
Hehehe...
...all that information to this watch, right here!
And it sends ...
Hehehe...
...inside of that restroom!
Every change happening to your body...
Blood Pressure
Pulse
Temperature
Sweat
...your every move...
Even now it's telling me...


...I understand practically everything happening in there!
Even without seeing you...
Hehehe...
...of a violent fit!
You're in the middle...

You think that by getting yourself worked up...
I know exactly what you're doing...

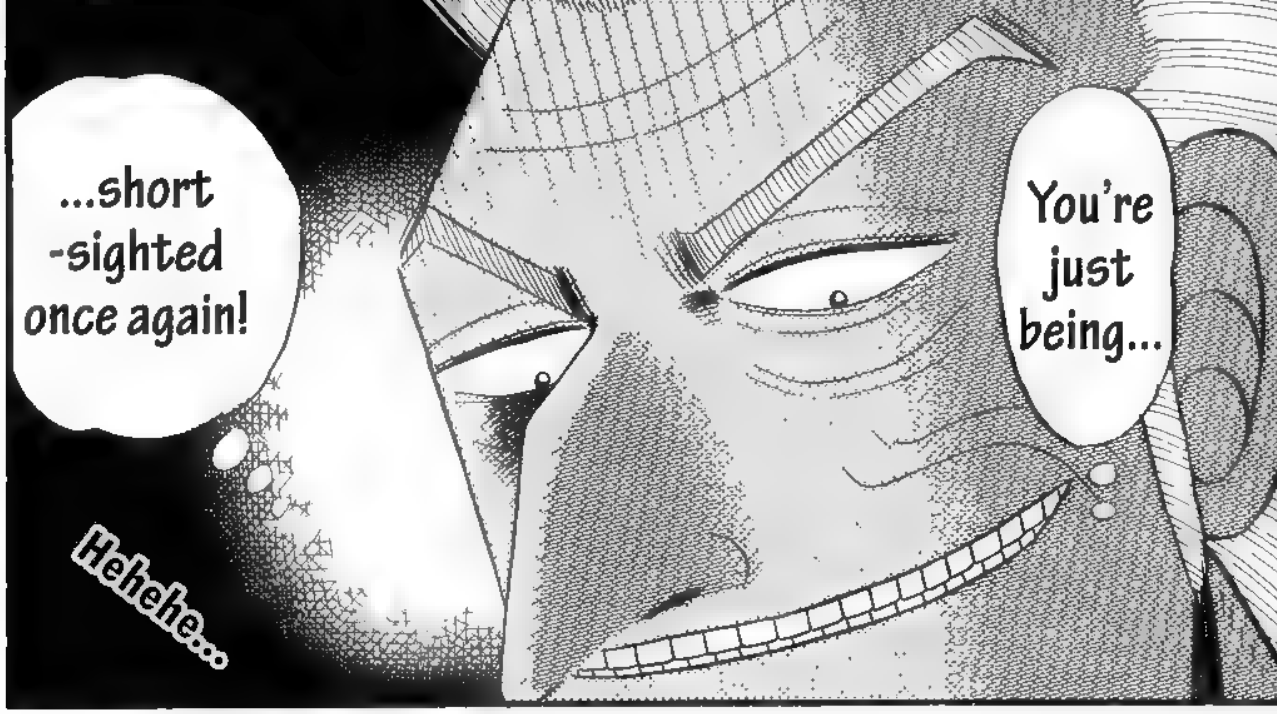
Kaiji...

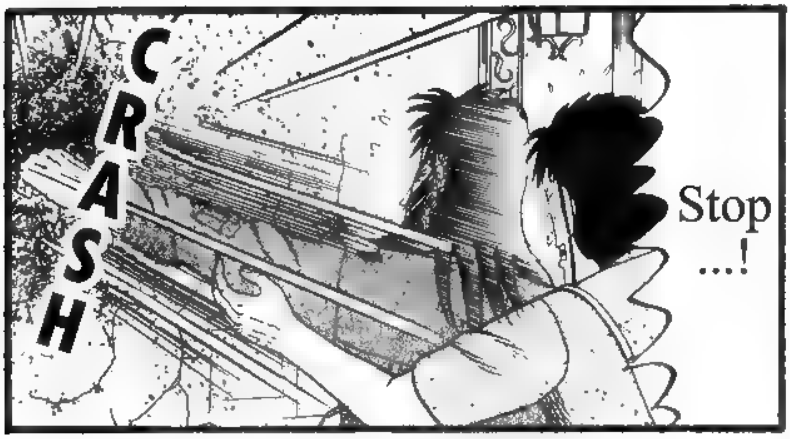

...would be to remove the device from your ear instead.
...the best option...
However...

...will be rendered entirely useless!
Of course...

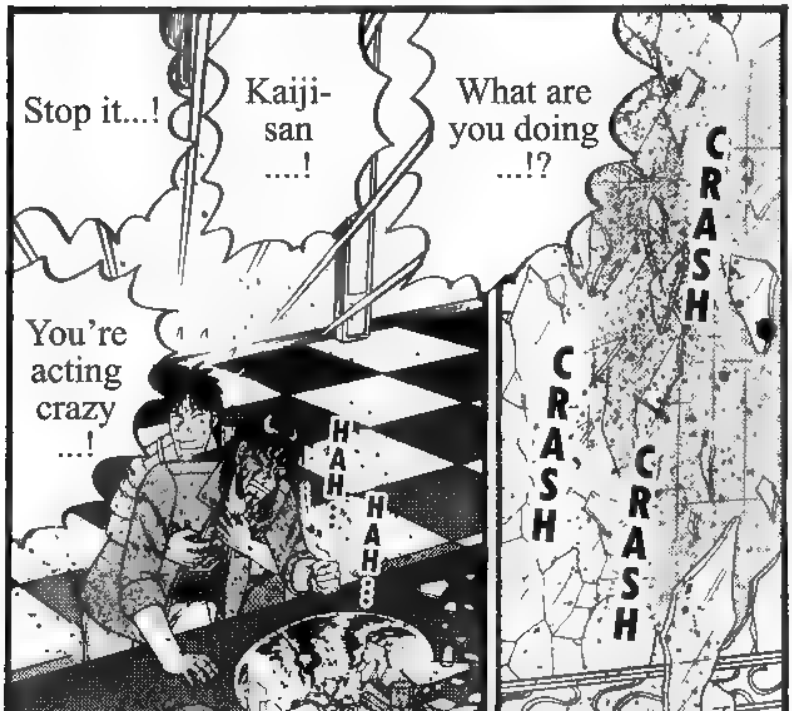
...those transmissions...
...and the receiver here on my wrist...

Which means...
...that something was amiss ...
...the remote would sense...
...and its alarm would ring.
The clamps are locked on securely...
...that, my friend, is not an option.
Even if you were to try and remove them by force...
...the only other option left is to attempt to render the sensor in my watch useless.
And since that's the case...
...is barred to you!
...that option ...
But in the end...
As desperate as it seems, this is your last resort.
... these readings ...
...you're hoping to render all of...
...blood pressure, perspiration, body temperature and pulse, meaningless to me.
...by subjecting your body to extreme stimuli...
In other words ...


...short -sighted once again!
You're just being...
Hehehe...


CRASH
Stop ...!

My victory has already been decided ...
...and there's nothing you can do to stop it!


Stop it...!
Kaiji-san ....!
What are you doing ...!?
You're acting crazy ...!
HAH HAH
CRASH
CRASH
CRASH
CRASH

Crazy is my last option...
Crazy is good...
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...
If I'm gonna destroy Tonegawa ...!
I have to do something unexpected ...
...if I'm gonna kill the devil.
I have to go mad...
...a path to victory!
It's time to cut open...
It's time to do something outrageous.

Aurrggghhhhh…!
7
10
4
2
8
9
11
5
3

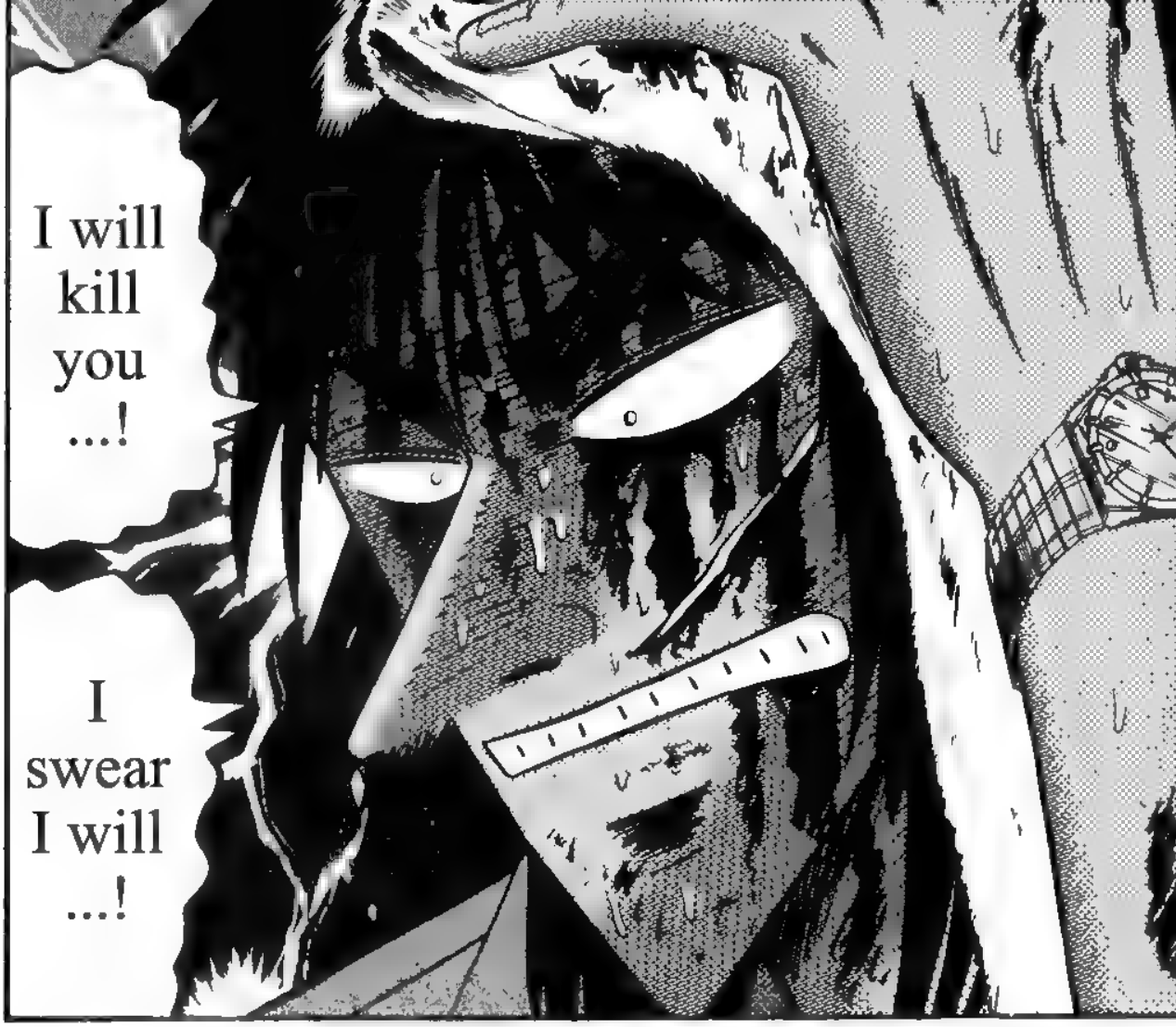
.....
Ahhhh ...!
Don't come in here...!
Don't come in ...!
GASP
Wh-What's happening ....!?
.....

Ohhh ....!
CREAK...
Ngghhh ...
CRREEAAK...
Ahh...!
WOBBLE
SHOVE
Get back ...!
AHH!
ざわ...
ざわ..
ざわ..
7
11

HAH...
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...
ERS
98

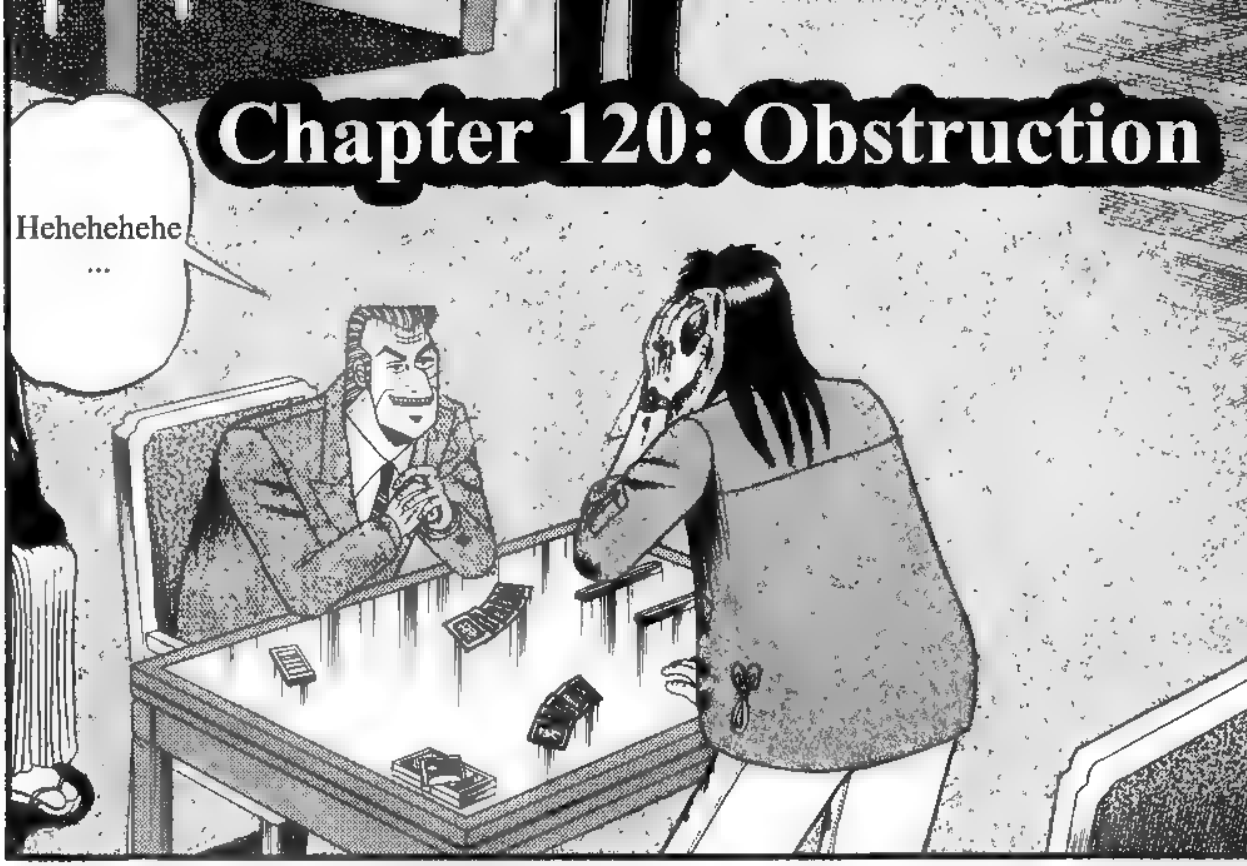
2
4
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...

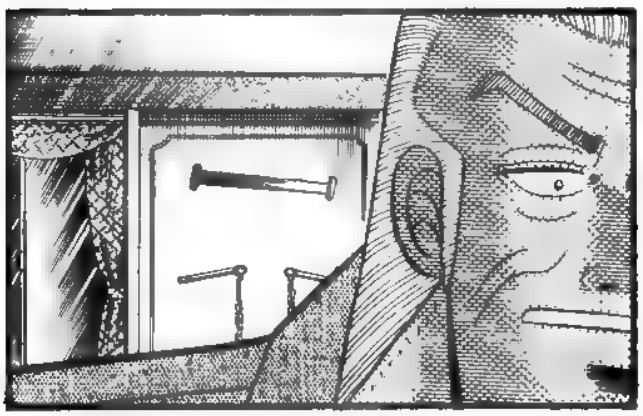
My next bet is 18mm...!
18mm ...!



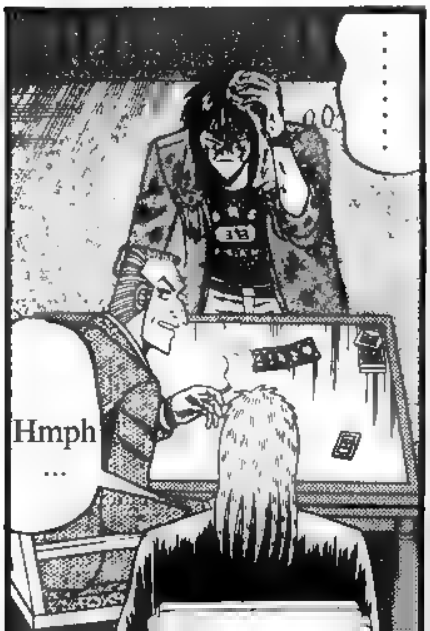
End of Chapter 119

Chapter 120: Obstruction



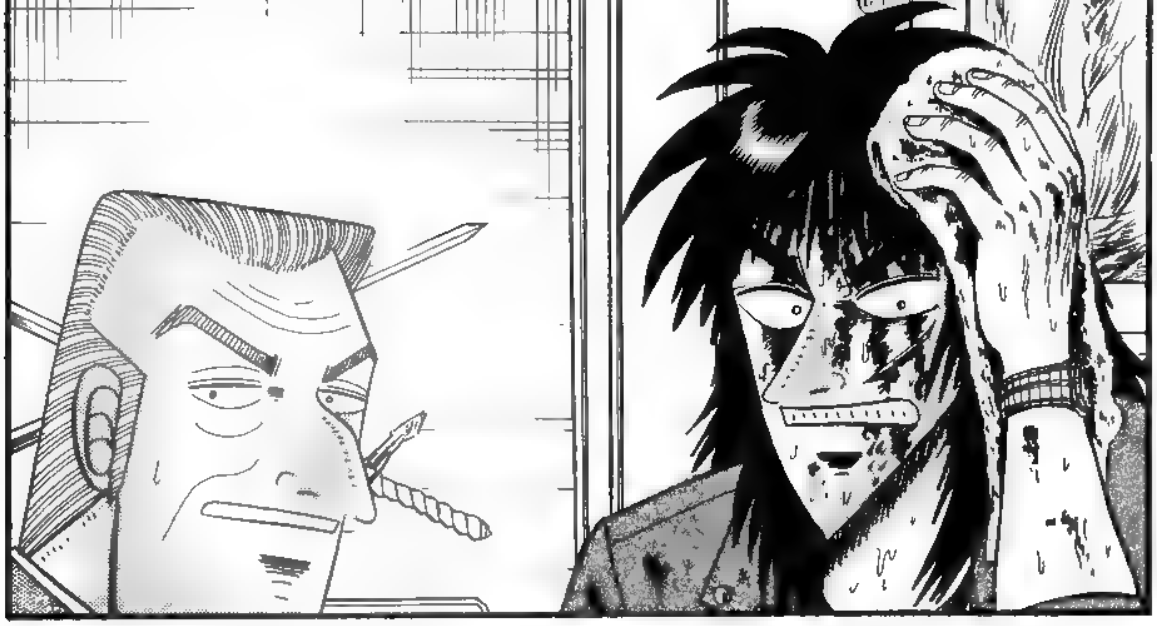


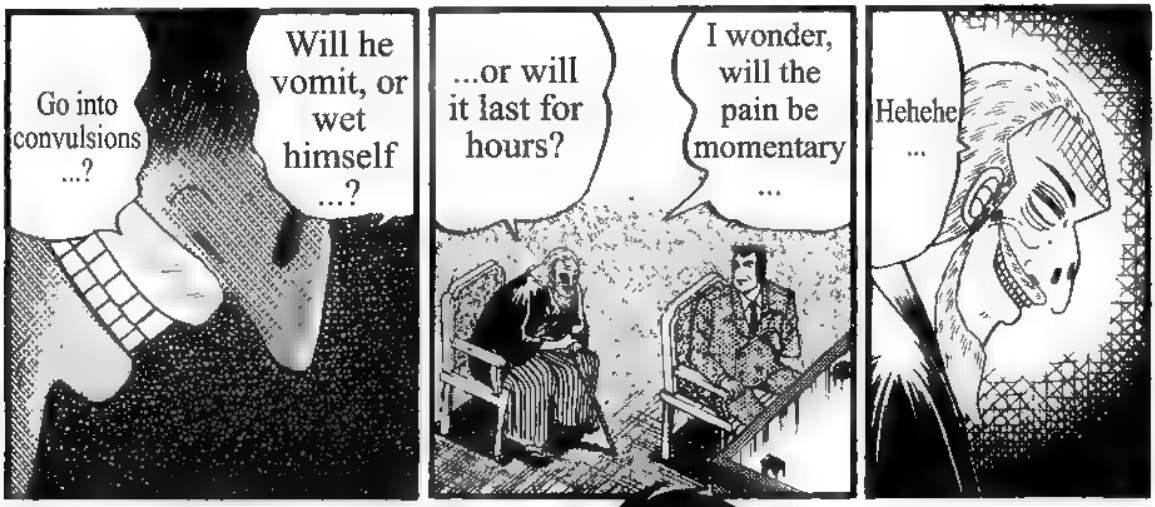
Tonegawa...



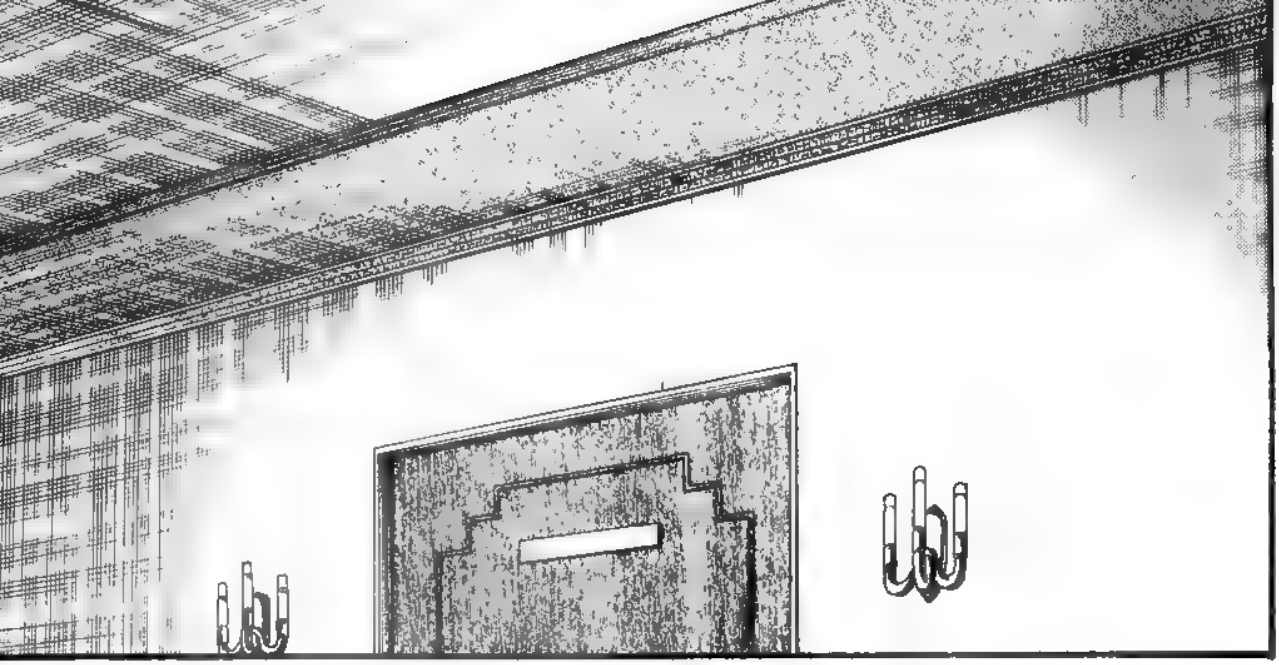
Marvelous ...!
Heehehehe

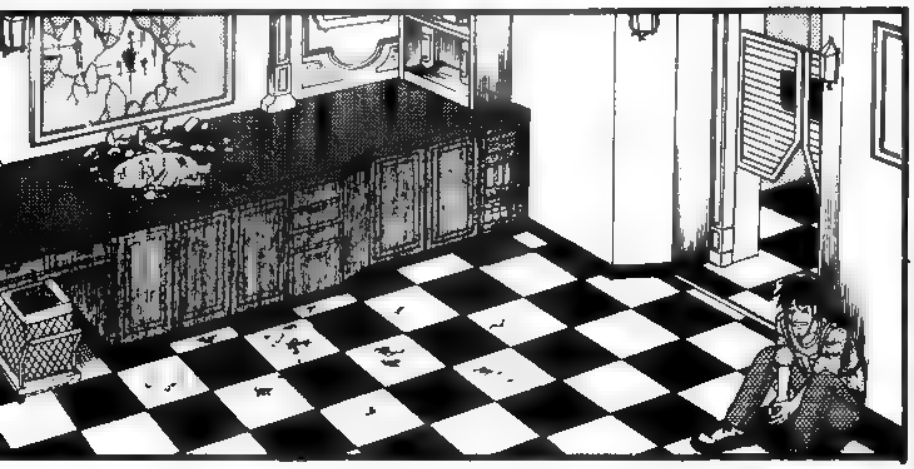
I hope that I don't need to remind you that you need to win ...!
The truth is...
Tonegawa ...
I've never seen such a display ...
Truly marvelous ...
Heehehehe...
...I've ever seen somebody die by having a needle bore through their eardrum and into their brain!
... this will be the first time...
...in countless different ways...
... though I've seen people die...
...how much the boy will squirm!
I can barely imagine ...

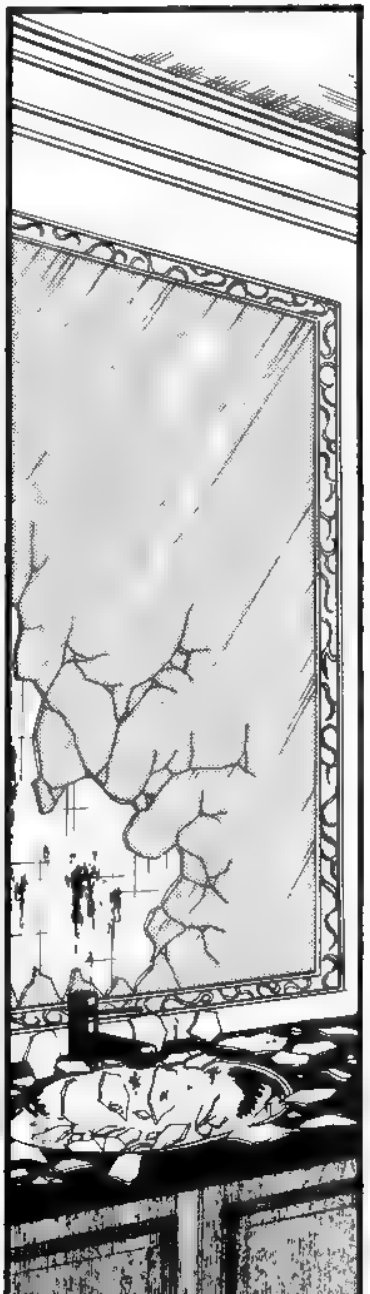



Will he vomit, or wet himself ...?
Go into convulsions ...?
I wonder, will the pain be momentary ...
...or will it last for hours?
Hehehe ...

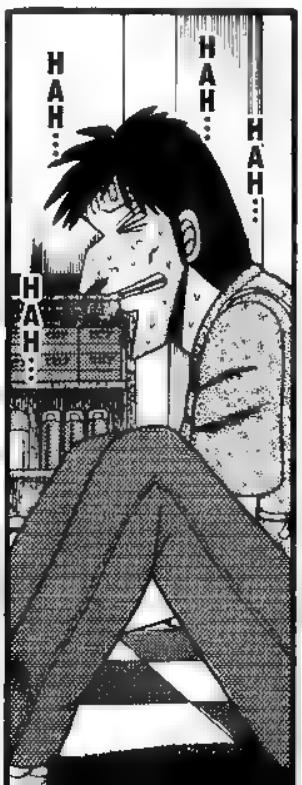
Go mad with pain ...?
Hehehe!!



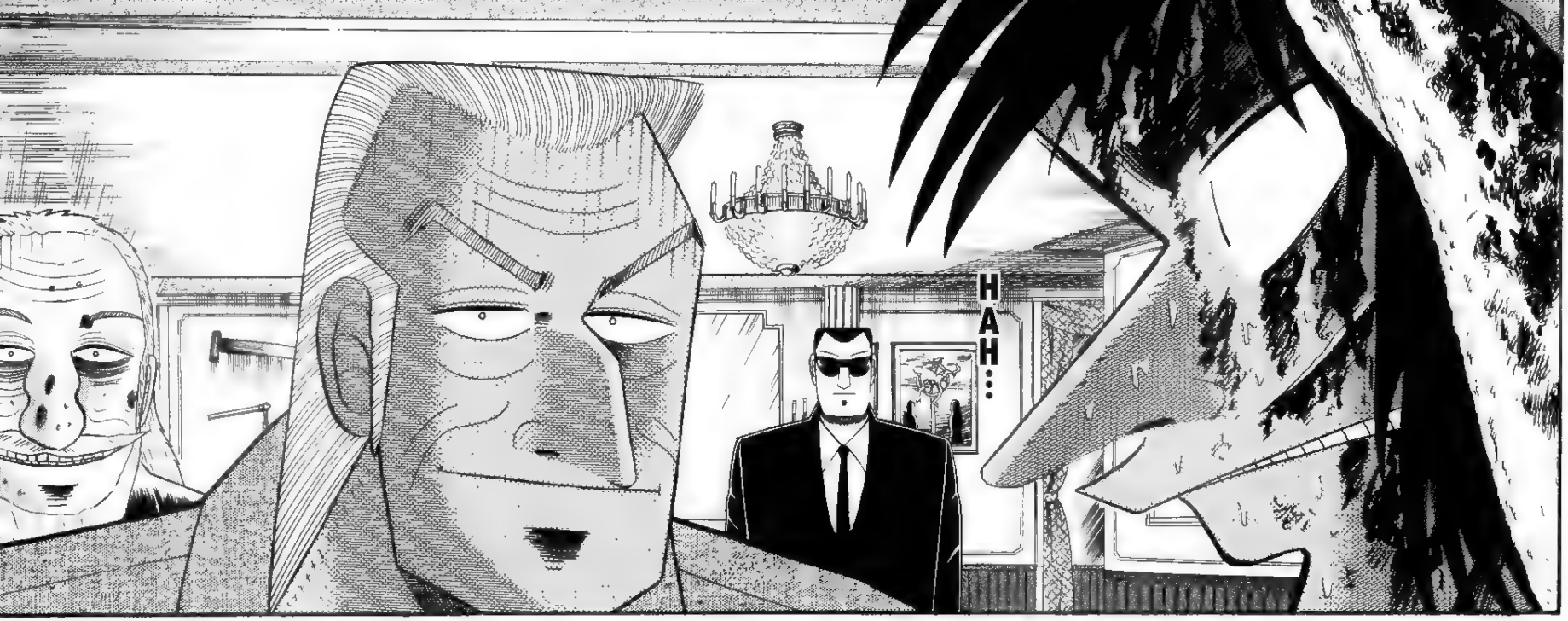


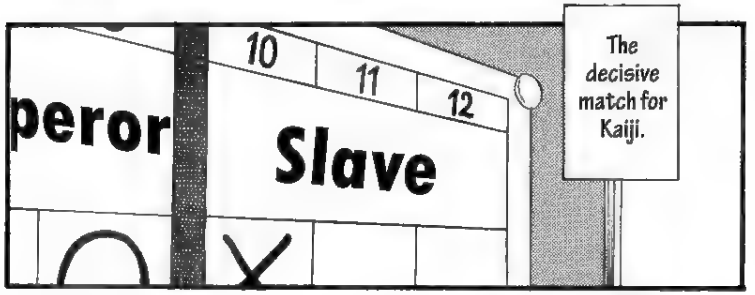


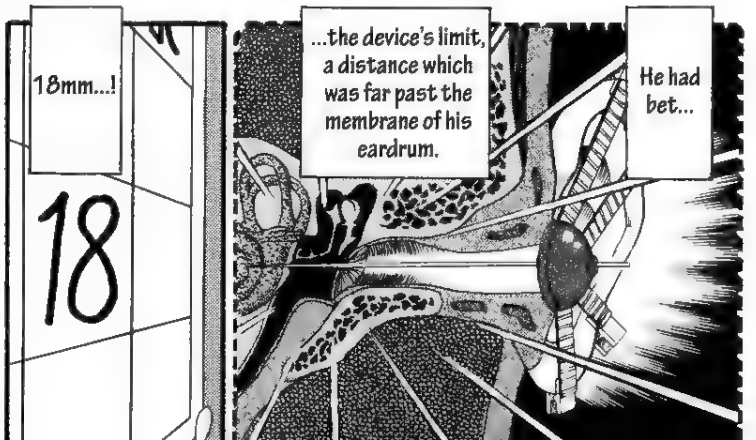
SOB
SOB
SOB
K-
Kaiji-
san...!


HAH...
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...

The 11th match of Emperor!!!

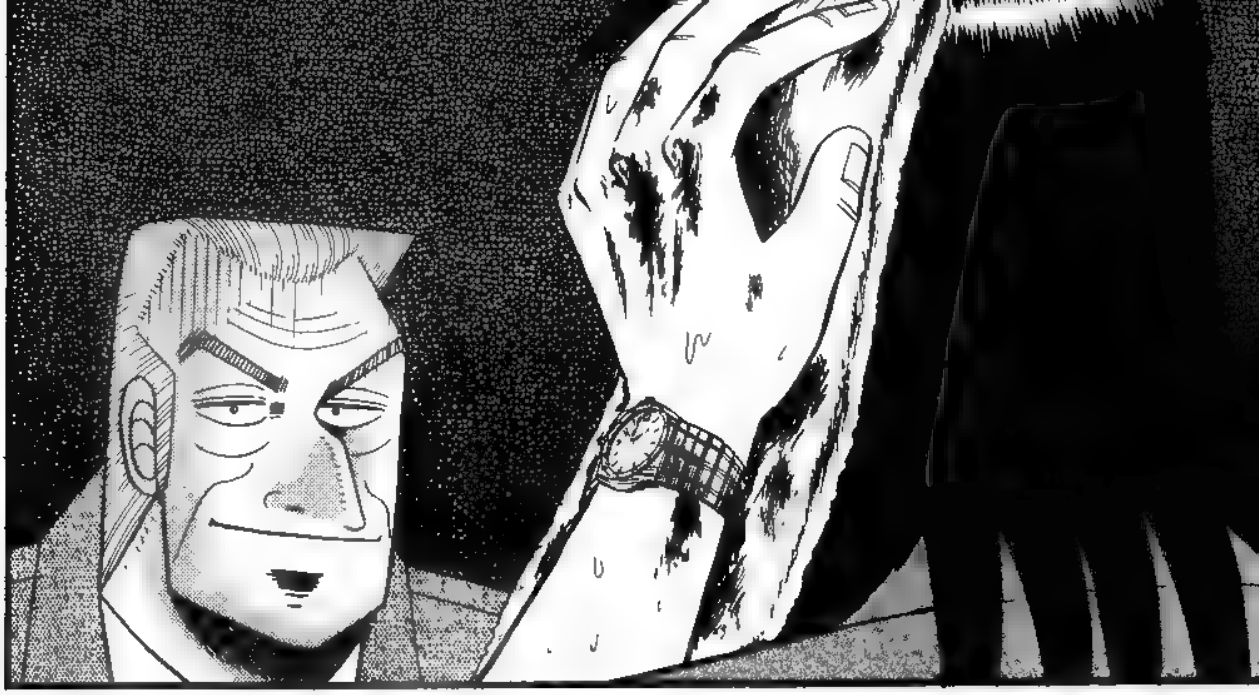


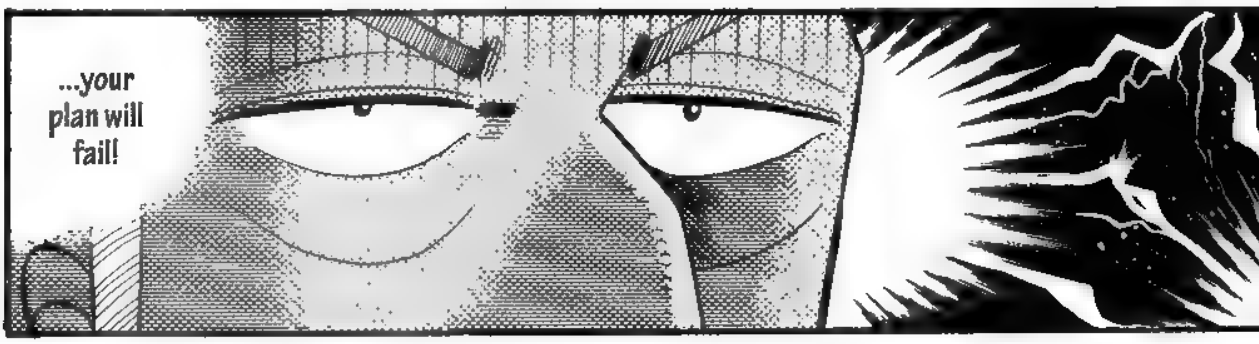


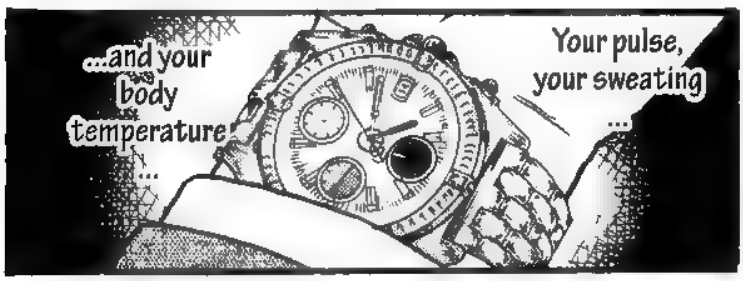


The first trick...
And you'll die convulsing in pain...!
Huh ...?
Tonegawa leads from the Emperor's side.
Tsk...
Could it be broken ...?
The blood pressure dial isn't responding...!

Regardless ...
He really did do a number on himself...!
That lunatic ...!
The other dials are all fine...
I know the plan was to get yourself all worked up...
...in the bathroom ...
Sorry, kid...
Kaiji ...
As long as I can still read his pulse, temperature and perspiration that should enough...
I should be fine...
...but all the same ...
...rendering it functionally useless...
...all the way to maximum...
...may have driven the dials on my watch...
... essentially ...
Your little tantrum ...
...but it's not gonna work out for you.



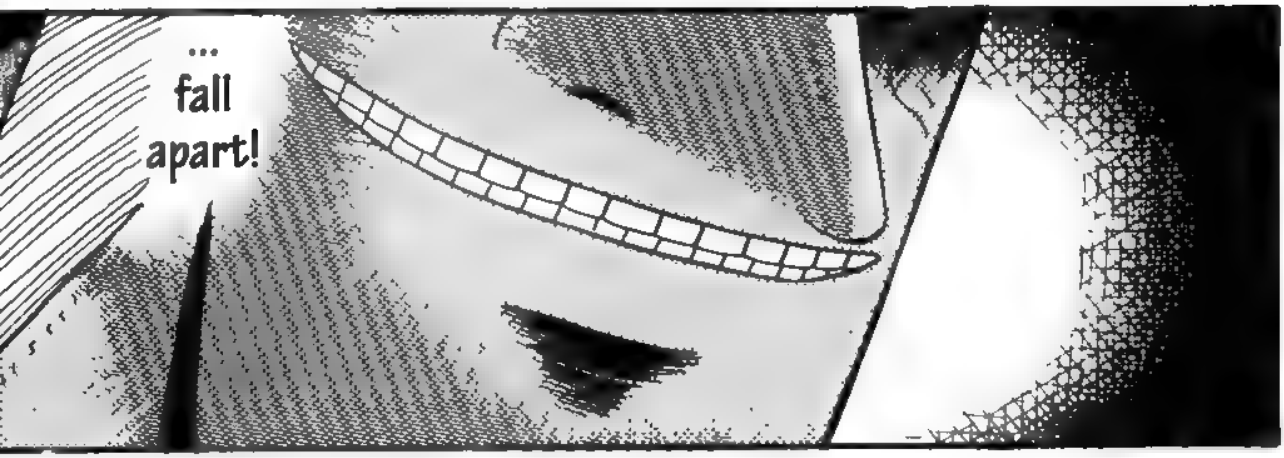

...your plan will fail!


...and your body temperature...
Your pulse, your sweating...

Stop and think about it...!
HAH...
HAH...

They have to calm down sooner or later...!

How long can you keep them agitated for...!?



... to calm itself down!

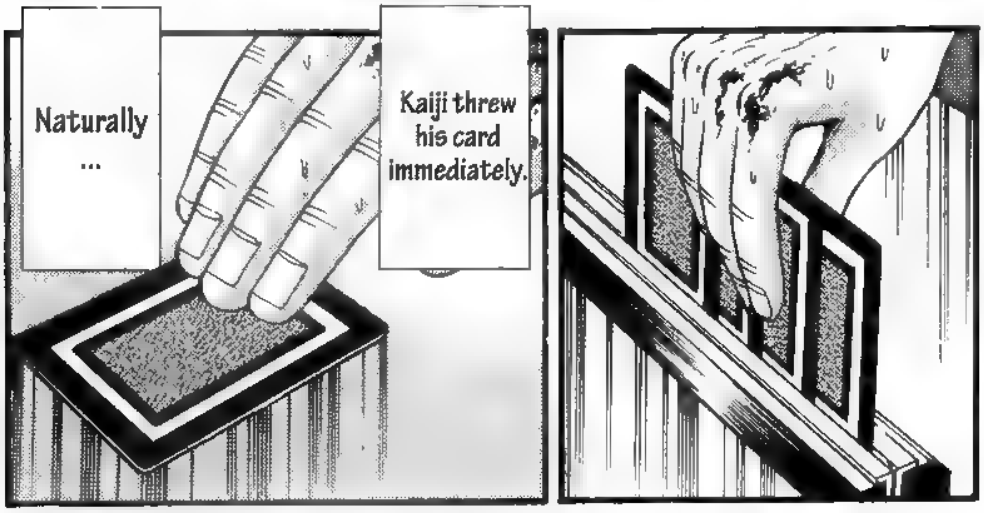
Nice ... and slow ...!
PHEEWWW...
Three minutes had passed.
Hehehe ...
Hurry up and play ...!
What are you waiting for...!?
What's wrong ...!?
I don't want to do anything rash...
18mm is a very serious bet.
... Kaiji -kun.
Don't be so hasty...

Nice and slow...
It wouldn't do to choose lightly...!
Hehehe...
Ngh...!
Hehehe...
EMPEROR
Five minutes.

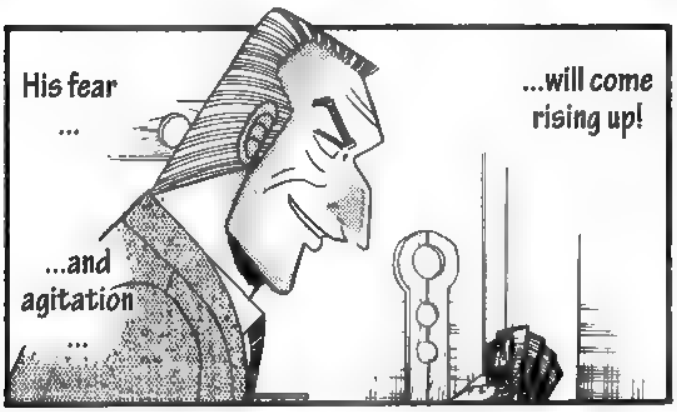
Next up is Kaiji.
Tonegawa finally plays his card...!
... and they turn over their cards!
He throws immediately ...
CITIZEN
CITIZEN
The result, Citizen vs. Citizen...!
ざわ...

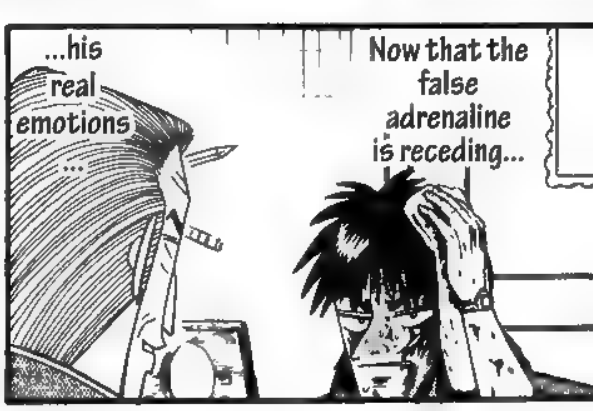
...it was unthinkable that he play his key card in the first trick. Instead he chose Citizen...
Since Tonegawa could gauge from his reactions which card Kaiji had played...
Kaiji...
A draw.
The inevitable first draw.
So far, all had gone as expected.
He too chose Citizen ...!
...was well aware that this was the case.
The problem was the second trick.
Kaiji was playing on the Slave's side...

The second trick was his lead!!



Tonegawa...!
Thinking and rethinking ...
He was taking his time to deliberate ...
.....
It's wearing off...!
The dials are falling ...!
Hehehe ...
.....



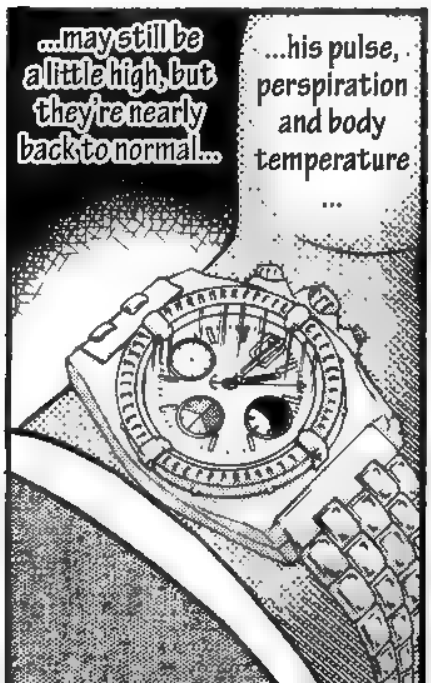


End of Chapter 120

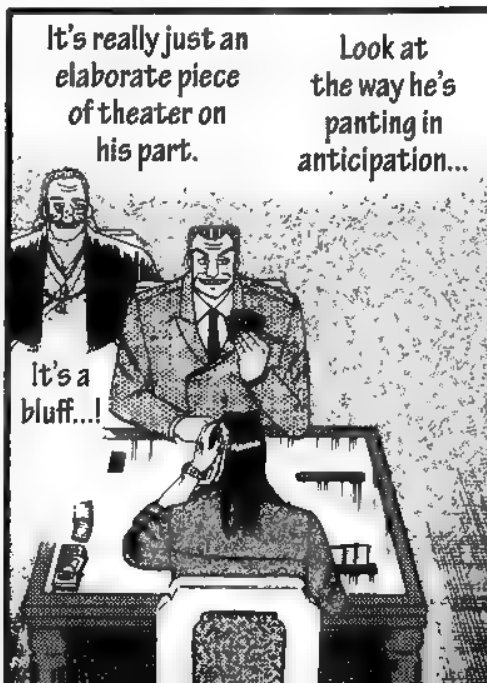
Chapter 121: Final Curtain

His acting is forced ...!

Hehehe ...
HAH...


...may still be a little high, but they're nearly back to normal...
...his pulse, perspiration and body temperature ...

After all...
But he's taken it too far...!


It's really just an elaborate piece of theater on his part.
Look at the way he's panting in anticipation...
It's a bluff...!

...is really just a ham-handed bluff.

...and the pressure is getting to him...

HAH...

... that means ...

And so...

...as if he's just put the match on the line...

The way he's breathing heavy...

...he's not nearly as agitated as he appears to be.

Which means...

...as if he's just coming down from a rush of adrenaline.

...

has got to be

...

...

that the card he just threw

...

...then he would be more genuinely agitated.

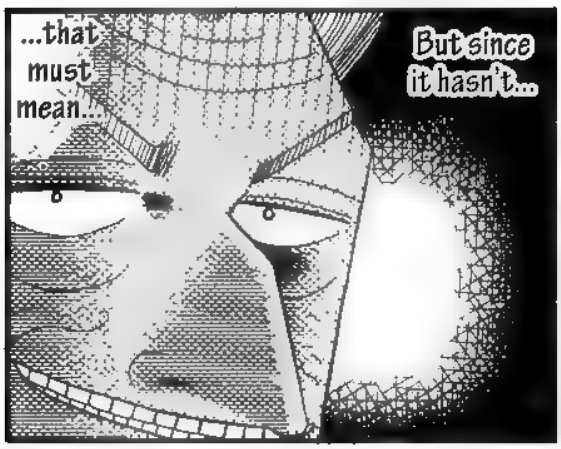
If he had thrown his key card...

Not his key card...!

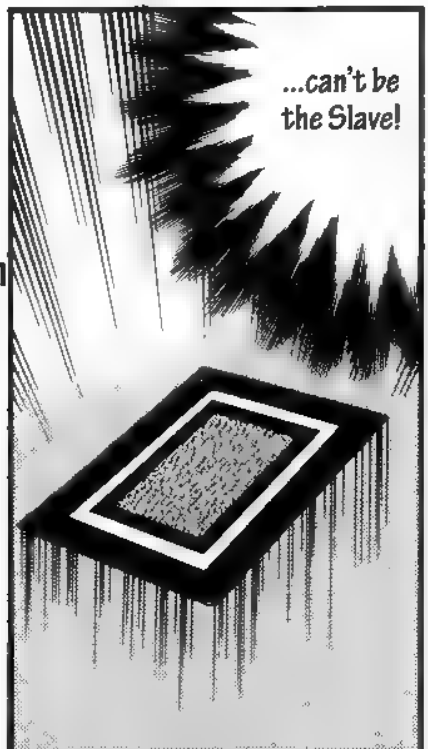
It can't be Slave...

...

Citizen!

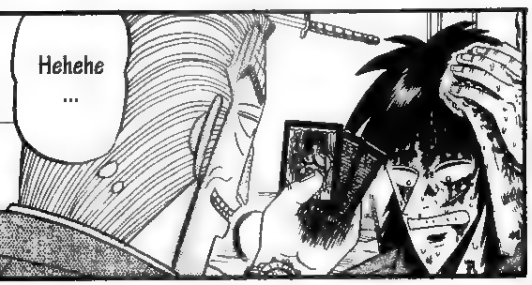


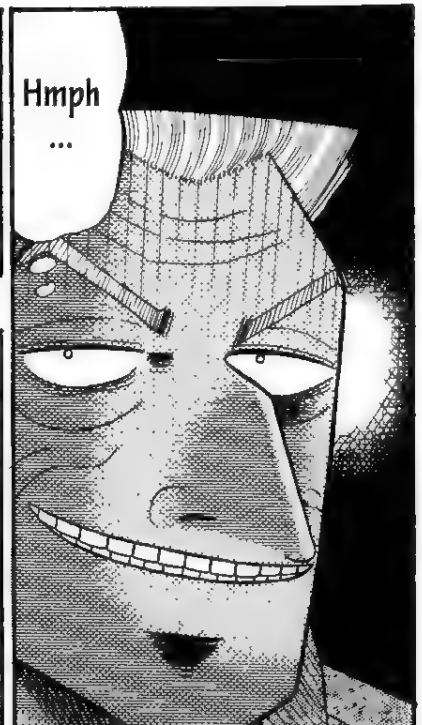
It's gotta be Citizen...!

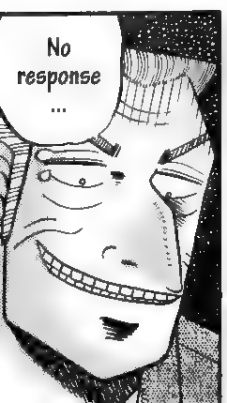


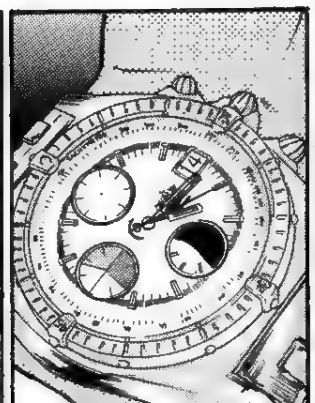
FWIP
I should make certain, just in case...!
Still, a lot is riding on this match ...
Absolutely sure...
ざわ・・・
Hehehe...
Huh ...!?
FLIP
ざわざわ

ざわ…
ざわ…
ざわ…
Team
Win / Loss
Distance Bet
Total Distance
Kaiji Ito
Hehehe
…
……


Hehehe
…


Hmph
…


No response
…



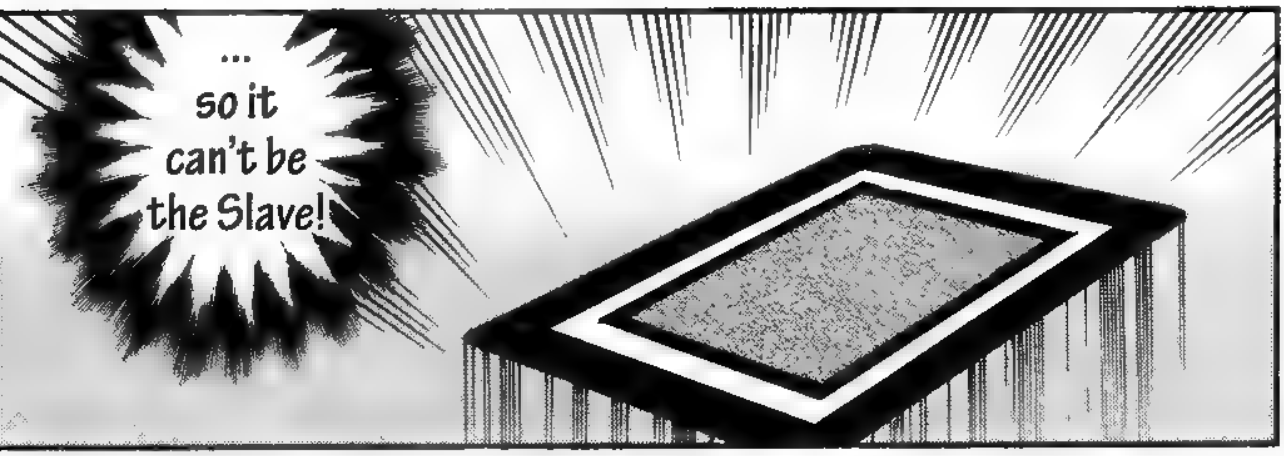
……
Always gotta play it safe...
Hehehe
…

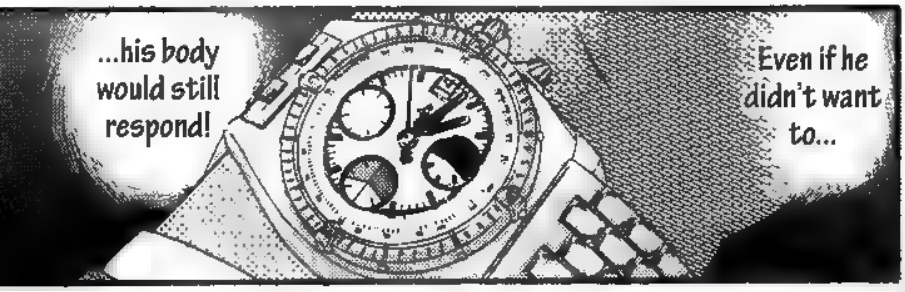
Ahh
…!

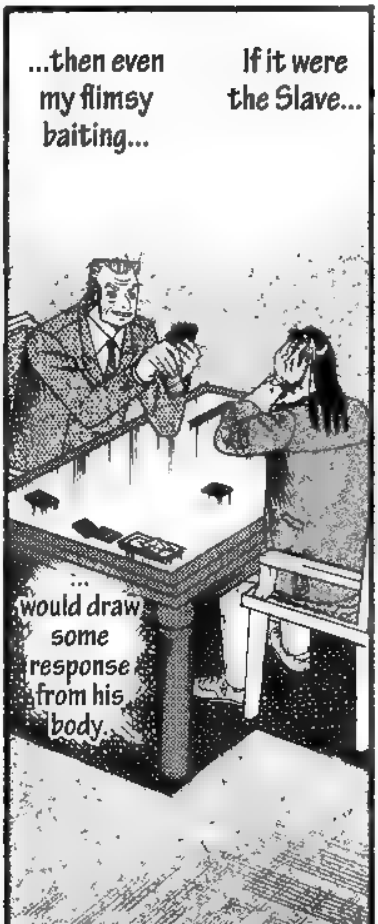
...right, Kaiji-kun?
The next card has gotta be Citizen...

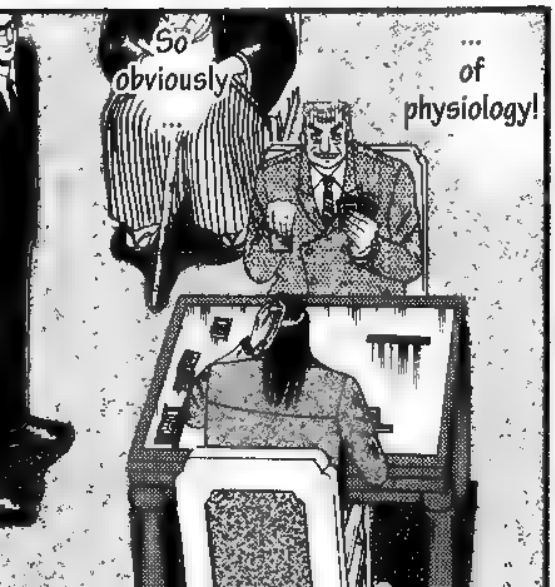
His pulse, body temperature, and perspiration...
...all remained the same!
...of worry on his face...
...is just another bluff.
And that means...
...that hangdog look...
As long as there's no change in pulse or body temperature...
... he's clearly ...
...not afraid of my playing Citizen!
Yet another performance meant to deceive me...!
CITIZEN

... that means that his card can't be defeated by Citizen...
If he's not afraid...!


... so it can't be the Slave!

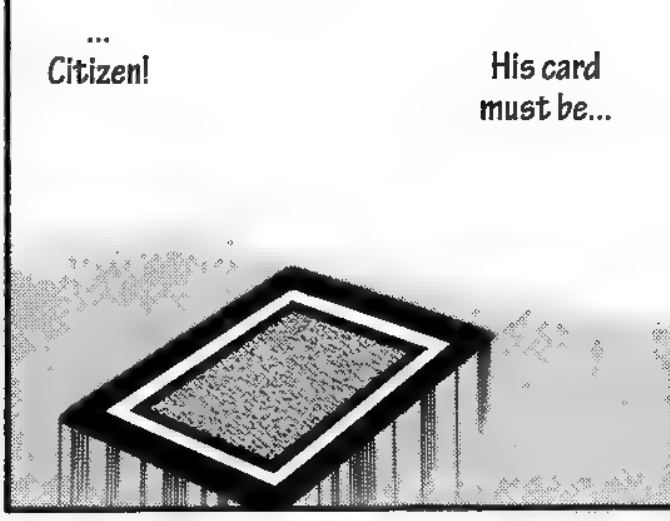

...his body would still respond!
Even if he didn't want to...

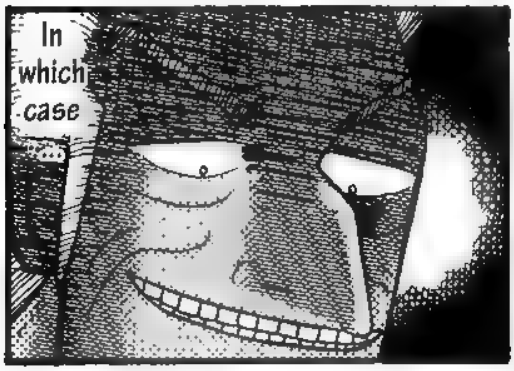

...then even my flimsy baiting...
If it were the Slave...
... would draw some response from his body.

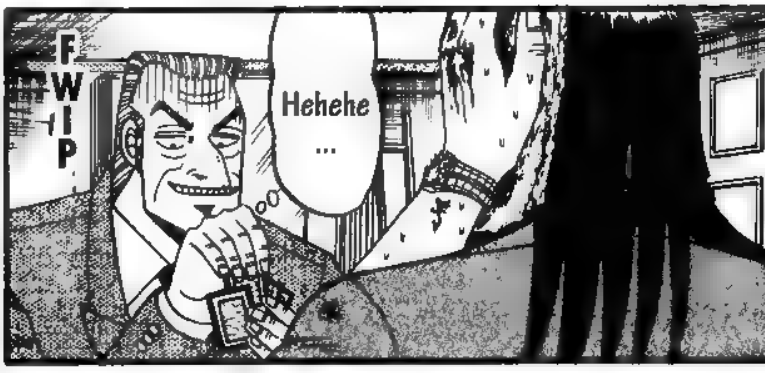

So obviously ...
... of physiology!

...a matter ...
It's all ...

...then that's the only option!
As long as he's not worried about me playing Citizen...


...
Citizen!
His card must be...

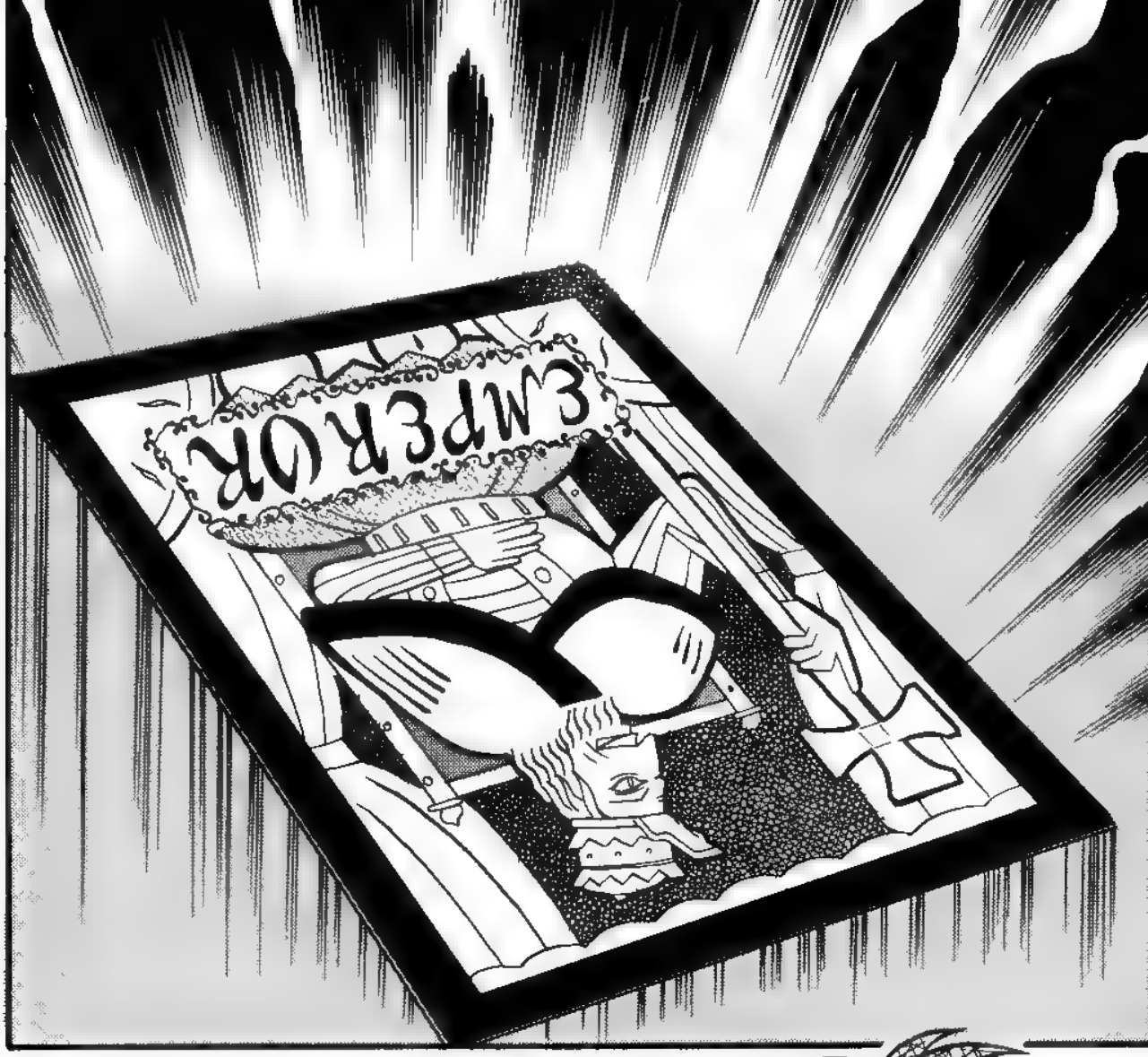

In which case


FWIP
Hehehe ...

THWAP

... my choice is clear!
EMPEROR

Hmph ...
Ahh ...!
Hehehe...
Your death is sealed...!
It's over ...!
Kaiji-kun ...
FLIP
Behold ...

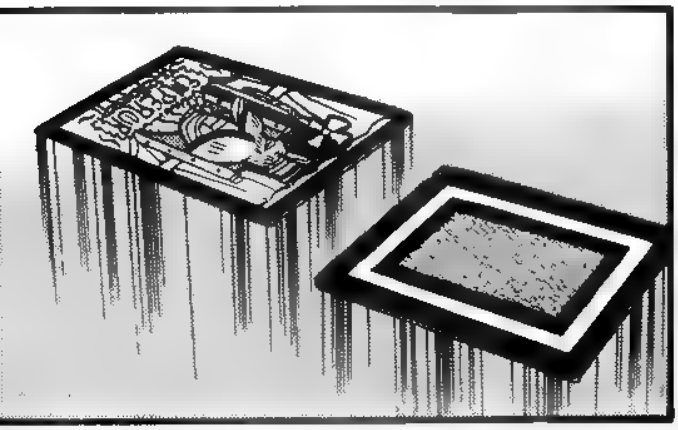

EMPEROR

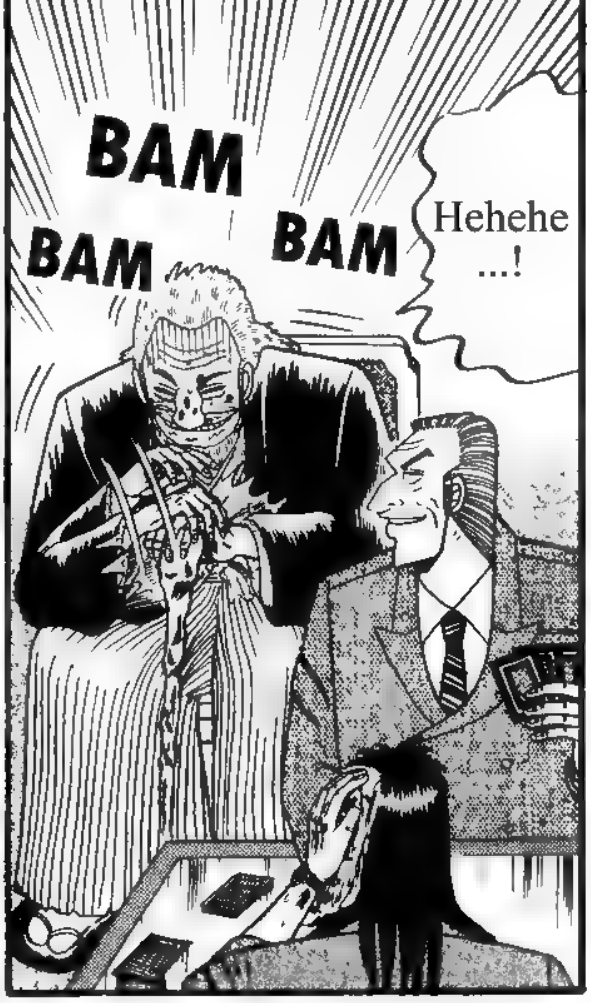
Tonegawa had thrown Emperor ...!
Play ...!
EMPEROR

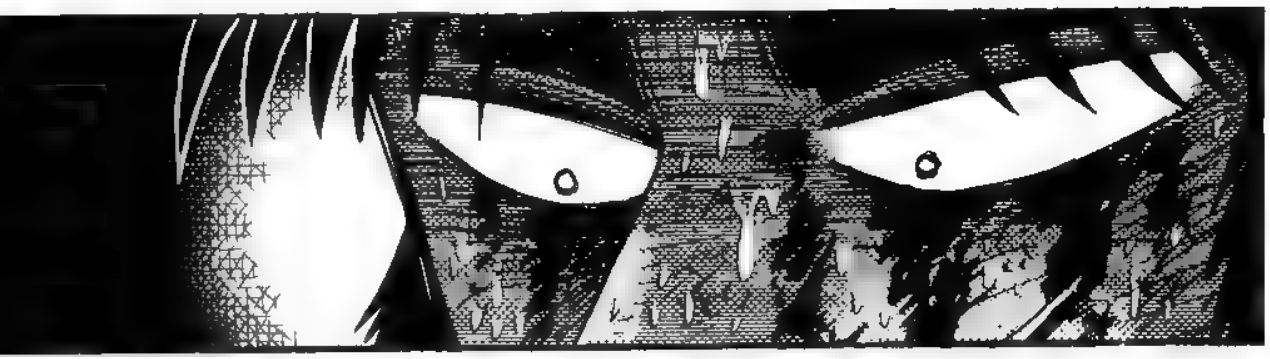
Hehehe...
Hehehe
...
Hehehe
...

Hoohohoho ...!
Wheehehehe ...!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM

Hehehe
...




BAM
BAM
BAM
Hehehe
...!



ざわ…

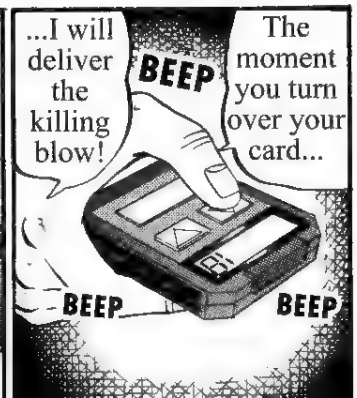
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ..
Hehehe
...

I won't make you wait in suspense ...!
... that I will at least be merciful!

You can rest assured ...
.....

... it should be easier on you that way!

Psychologically speaking...


...I will deliver the killing blow!
BEEP
The moment you turn over your card...
BEEP
BEEP

Hehehe
Slave
Kaiji-san...
Kaiji-san...!

Kaiji-san...!

But don't worry ...

... time to show us your card.
Now then ...

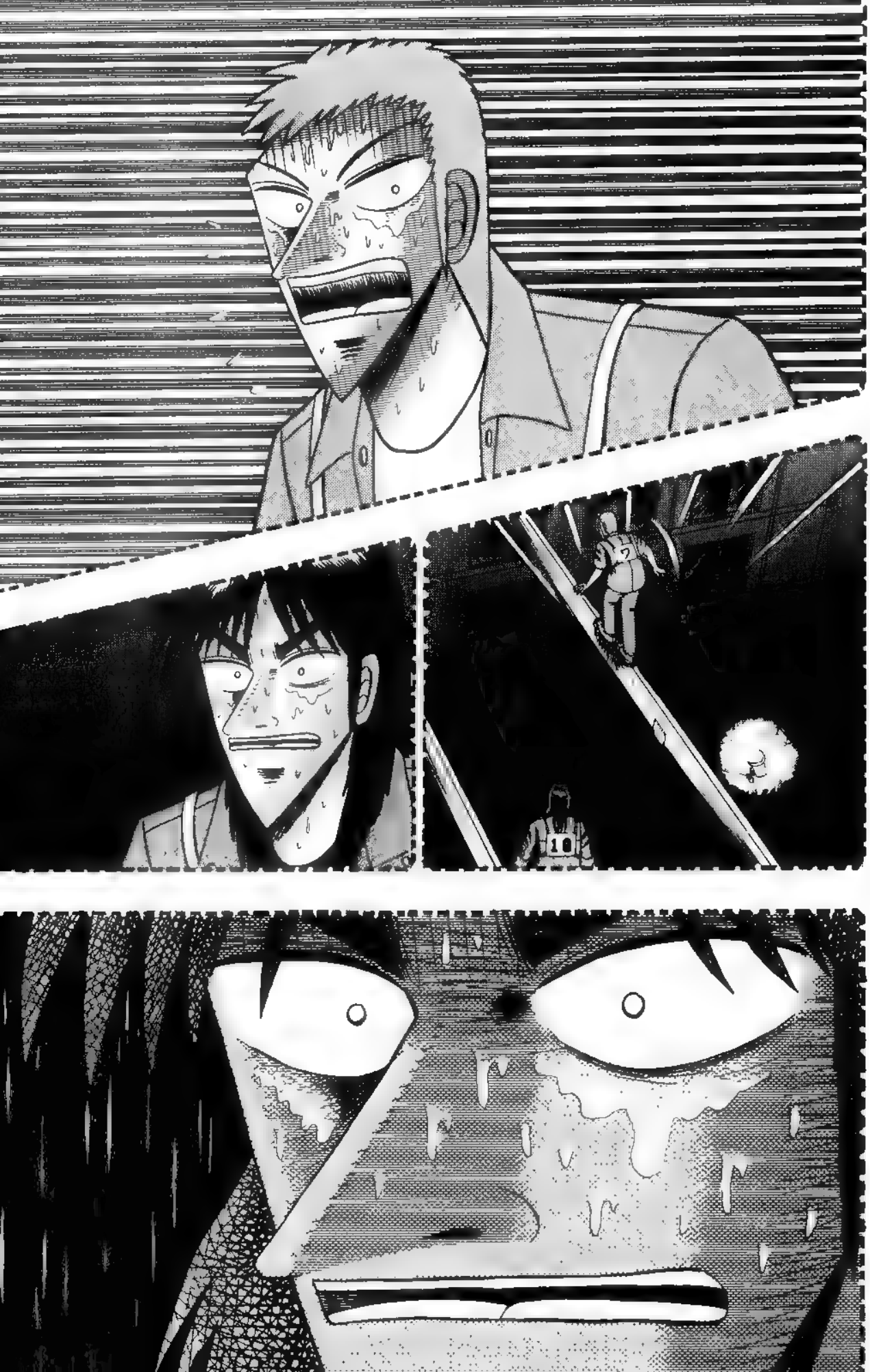
Hehehehehe
...

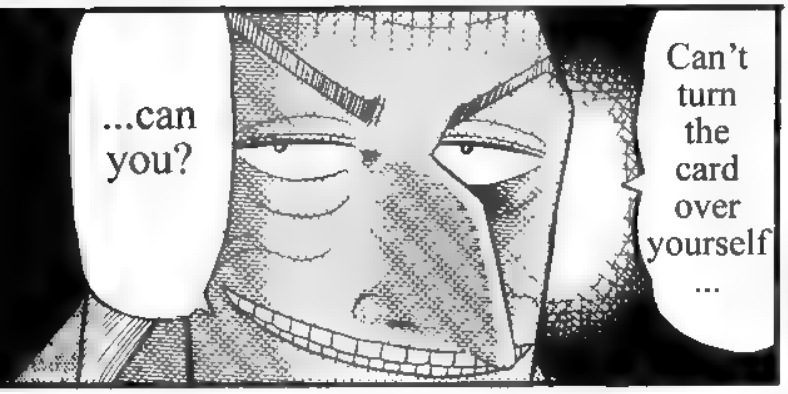
End of Chapter 121
ERS
33
ERAMUI

Chapter 122: A Vengeful God

Hehehe
...
Hehehe
...
.....

I.R.S.

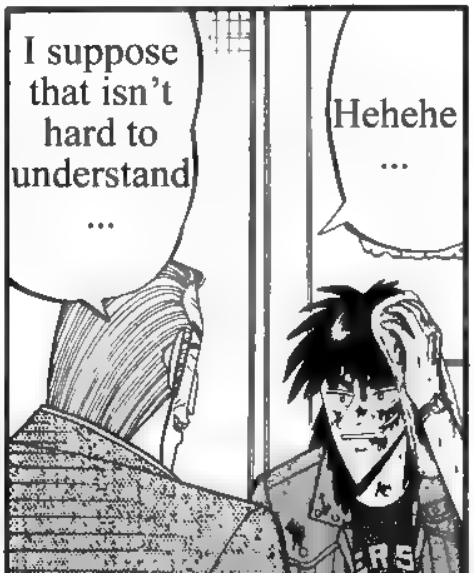


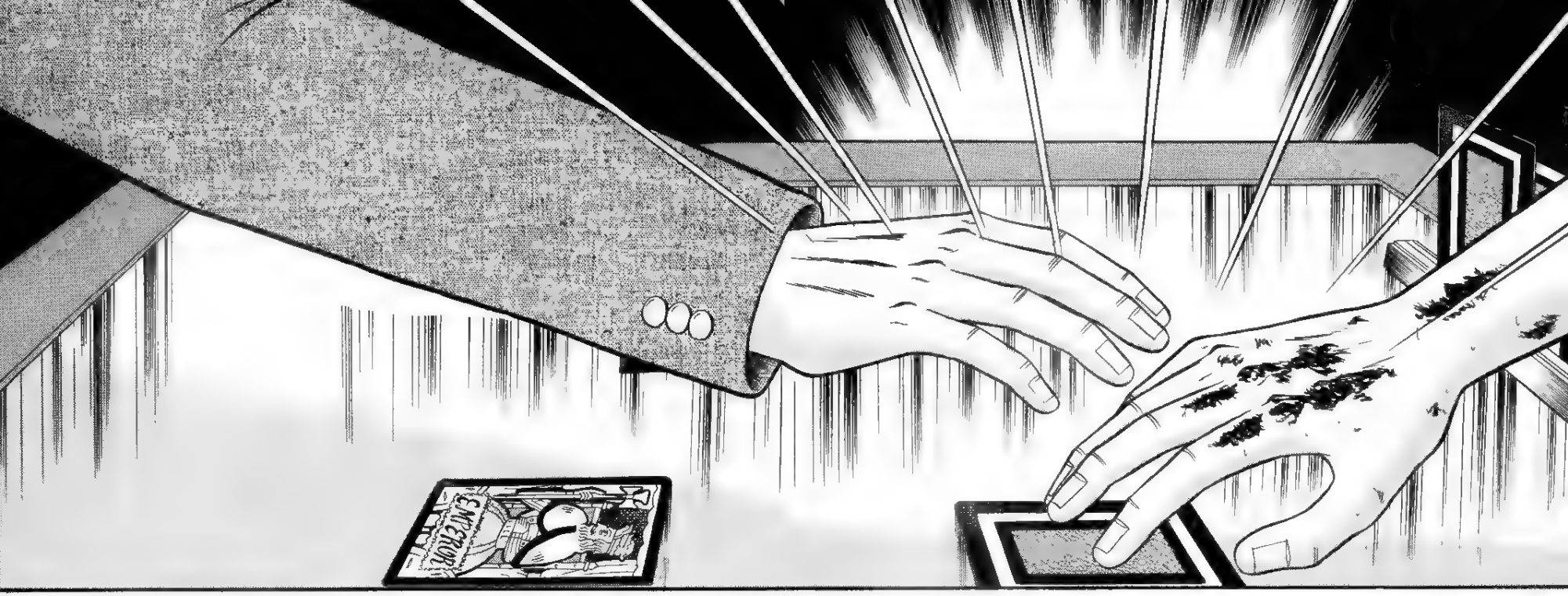

...can you?
Can't turn the card over yourself ...

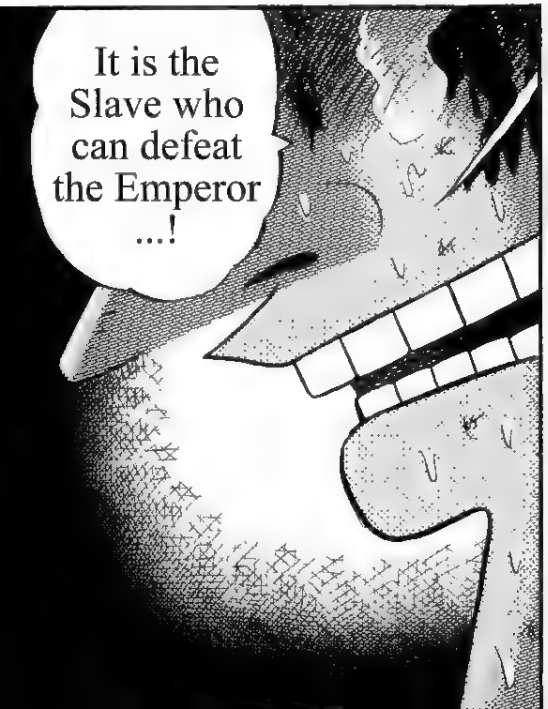
Hehehe

REACH
Allow me, then...

It's left to somebody else to take care of the last moment.
After all, people don't strap themselves in on death row.
THUNK


I suppose that isn't hard to understand ...
Hehehe ...

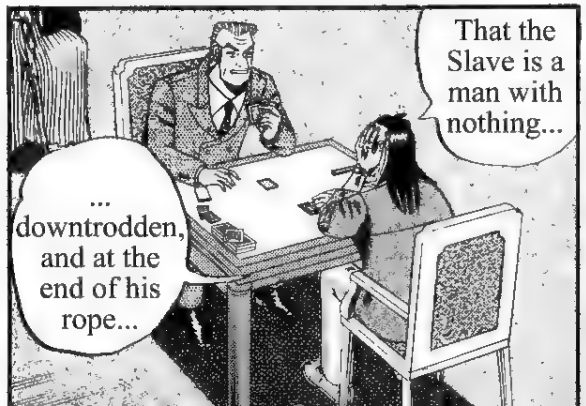

EMPEROR


It is the Slave who can defeat the Emperor ...!

...precisely because he has nothing ...
However ...

Because he has nowhere left to turn...

.....

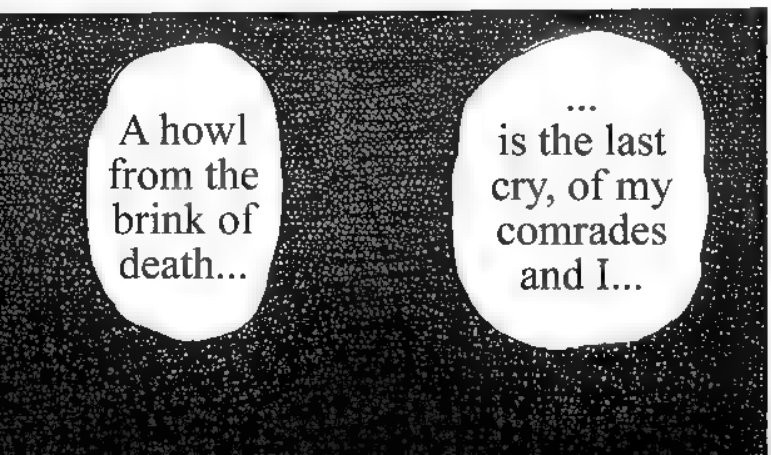

That the Slave is a man with nothing...
... downtrodden, and at the end of his rope...

Didn't you ...?
You said it yourself...

But what's your point...?
Prepare yourself ...!

I did say that ...

This...


A howl from the brink of death...
... is the last cry, of my comrades and I...

SOB
SOB
SOB

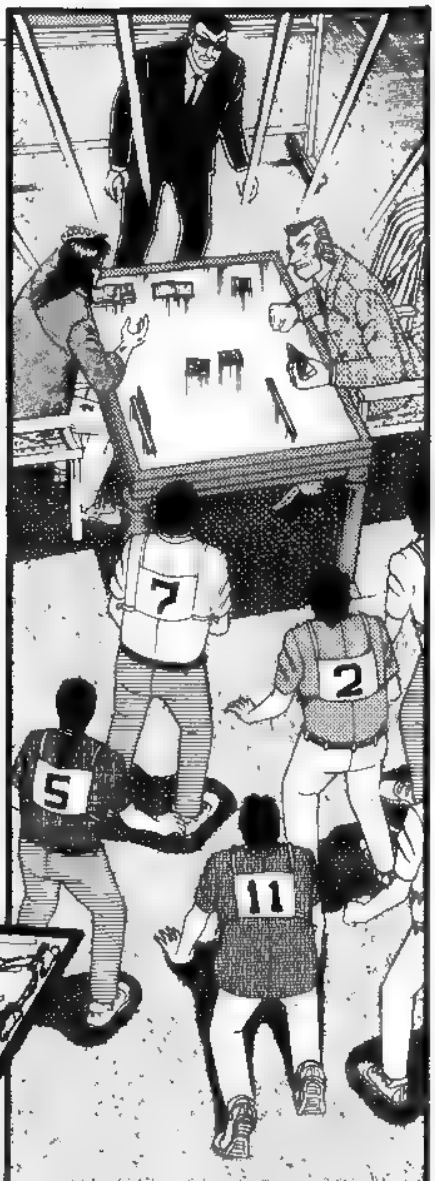
This is our final act ...!
ERS
38
ERAMU

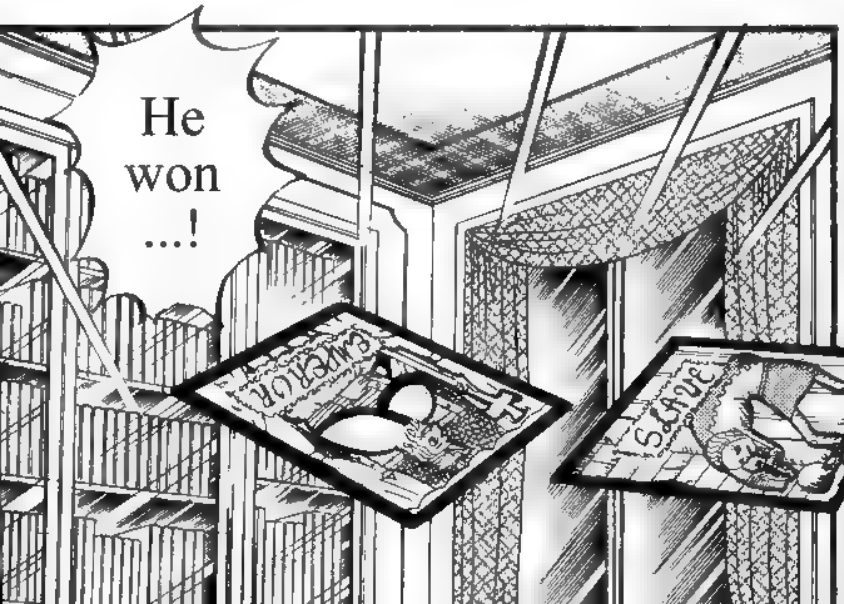
Kaiji-
san...!

SLAM

SLAVE
EMPEROR

Ahhh ...!
Ah ...

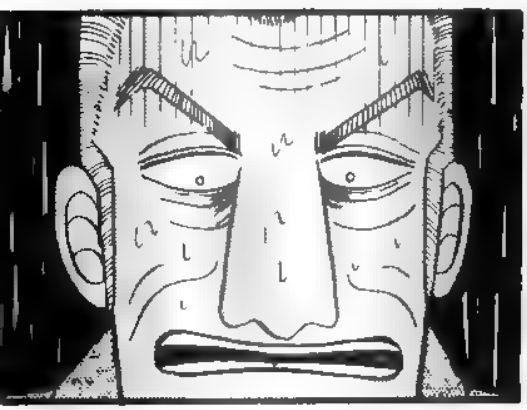


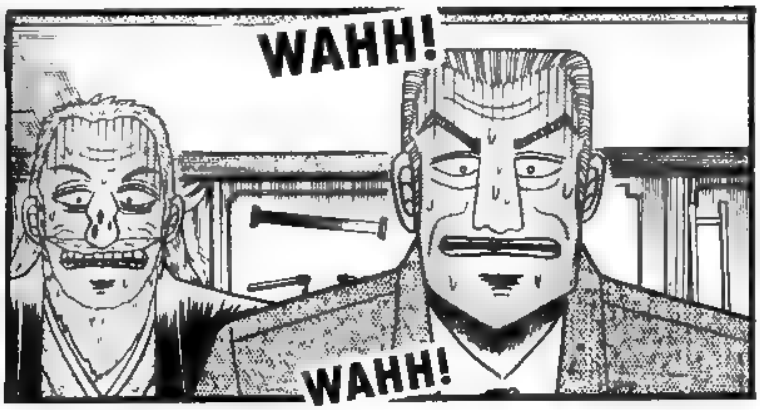

He won ...!
EMPEROR
SAGE

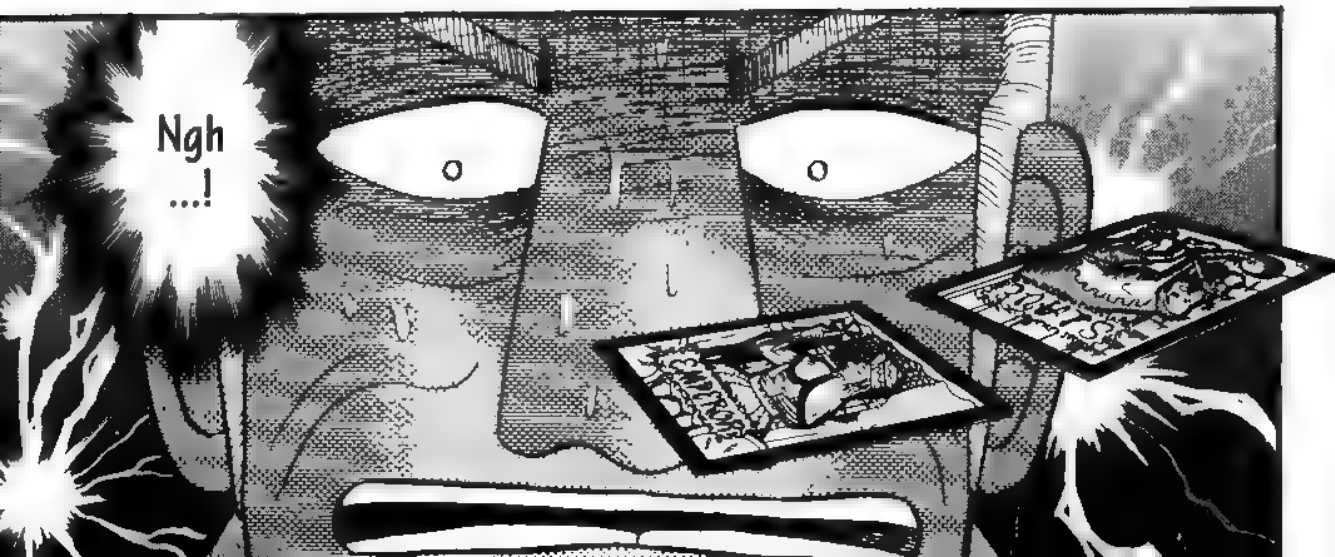
He won ...!
WAHHH...!
He won ...!

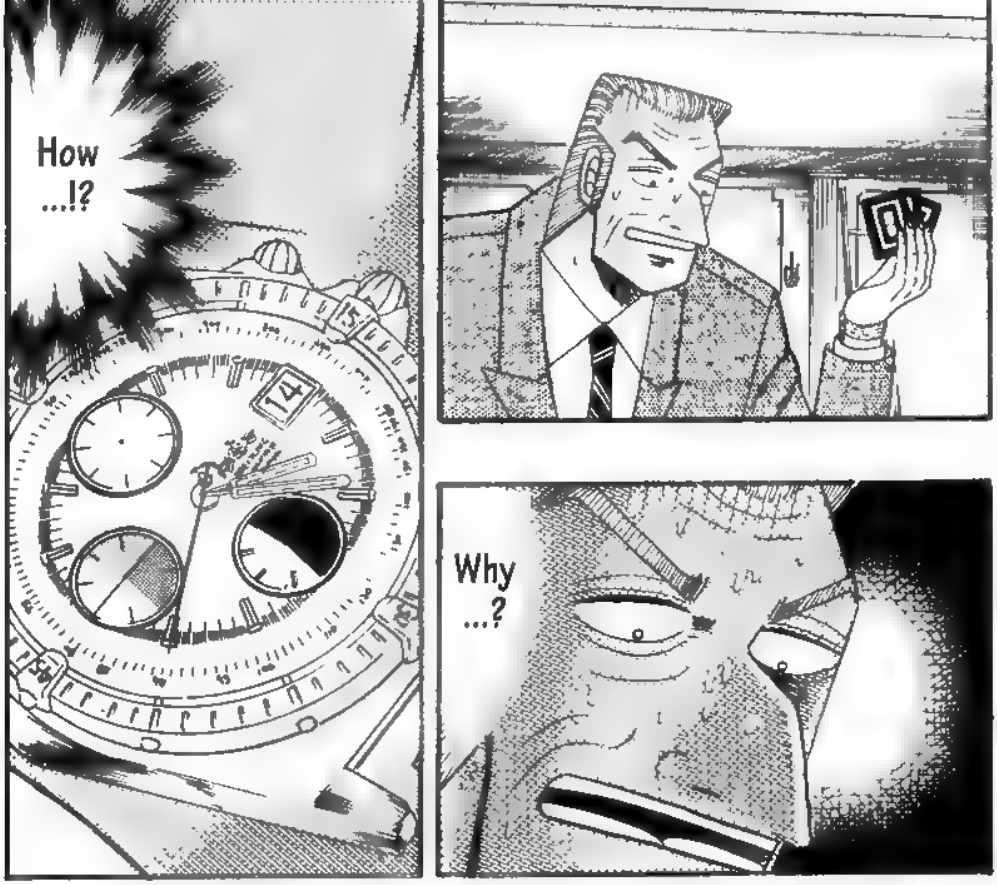
YEAAAAAH!
He won ...!
Weehee ...!

He won...!
He won...!
He won...!
YEAAAAH!
He won ...!
Kaiji-san won...!
ALRIGHT!



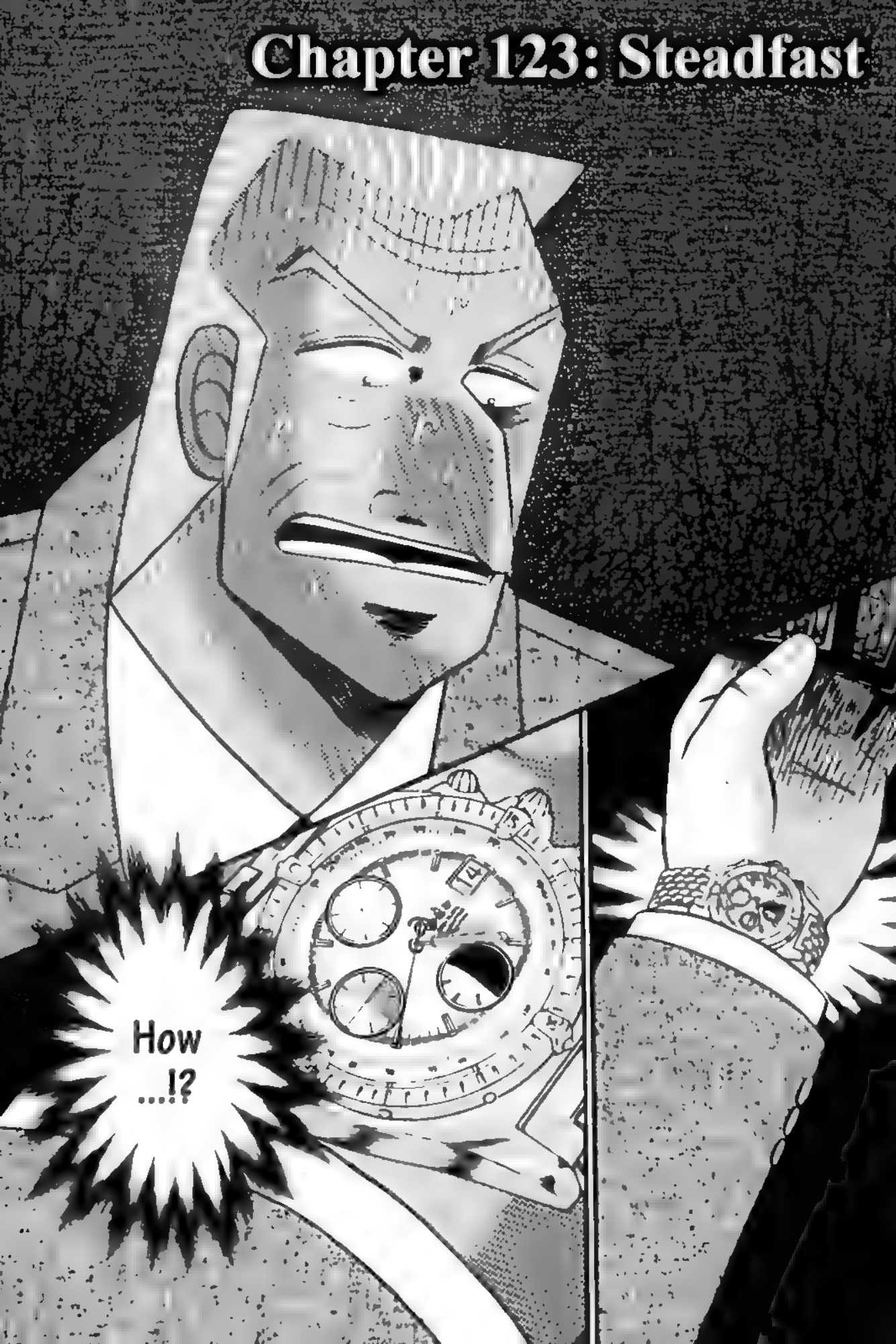

WAHH!
WAHH!


Ngh ...!


How ...!?
Why ...?
Impossible...!

End of Chapter 122

Chapter 123: Steadfast



WAHHHH!
WAHH
He won ...!
He won ...!
How ...!?
No ...
Could it have actually weakened his body's response...?
How do you explain that...!?
CITIZEN
...the Citizen card.
...when I showed him...
...I still would have seen some jump...
Even if that were the case ...
He's lost so much blood...
He won ...!
WAHH!
WAHH!

...in the lower range!
...I would have still seen a response ...
...his physical response became...
No matter how weak...
It's unthinkable ...!
...while I pretended to throw Citizen, his losing card...
To imagine that he could feel nothing...
Then what ...?
...to malfunction?
Could all his antics have caused the other dials...
The blood pressure dial stopped responding.
Is it broken ?
.....

That's the only expla...
HAH!
HAH!
HAH!
TRICKLE
ERS
38

Ahh
...!

Impossible
Im
...
.....

Hehehe ...
You wouldn't have...!
CLATTER
About time you finally noticed ...
Bingo ...!
What took you so long ...!?
Maybe you're growing senile...

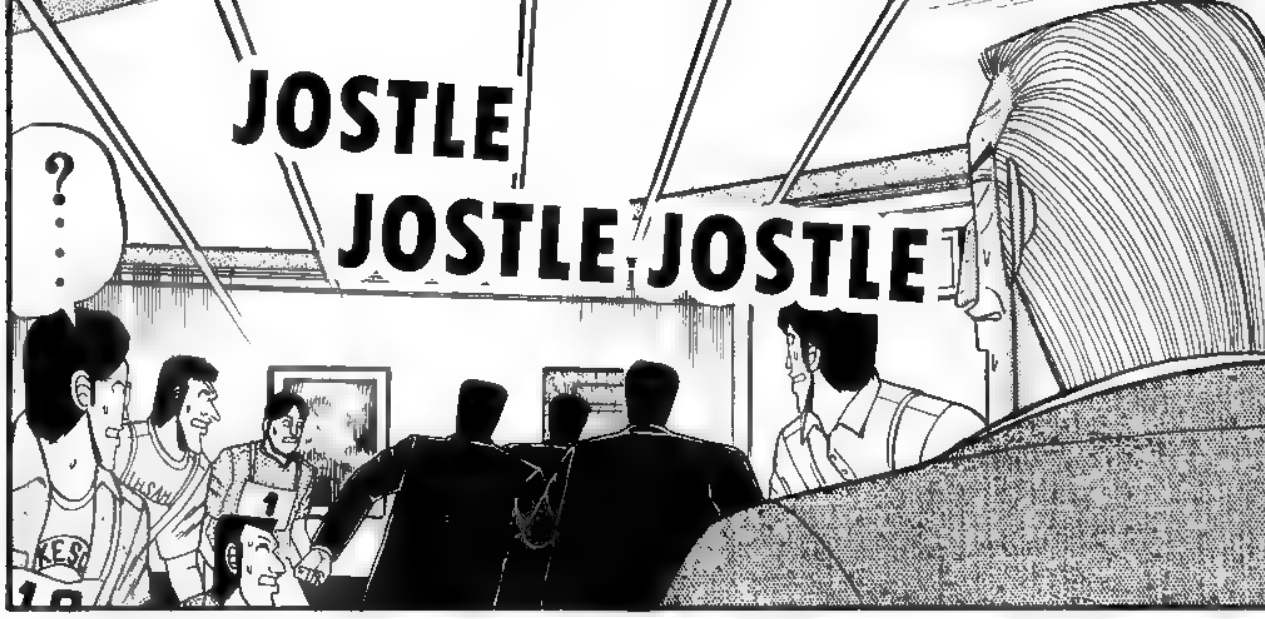
...you blood-thirsty imbecile!
Ngh ...!

Hehehe
...
Ngh
...!

There's somebody in the bathroom...!
Huh ...?

The bathroom ...!
.....
.....

Sir ...!
S...
Bring him here ...!


JOSTLE
JOSTLE JOSTLE
?……

ざわ…
ざわ
?……

ざわ…
?……
?……

GRAB
You lunatic ...!

You ...

GASP

CRASH
Auggghh ...!

H-
h-
his
...
His
ear
...!
It's
gone
...!

?……
It's gone ...!
?……
It's gone ...!
Gone ...!

ざわ…
……

ざわ…
Aiee ...!
... the ear!

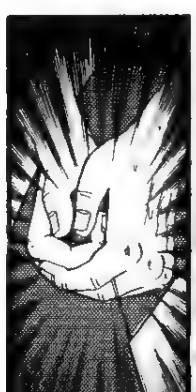
He was holding it...
In his hand ...
In the bathroom ...!

We found him...!
Tonegawa-sensei...!
STOMP, STOMP

It was true ...
……

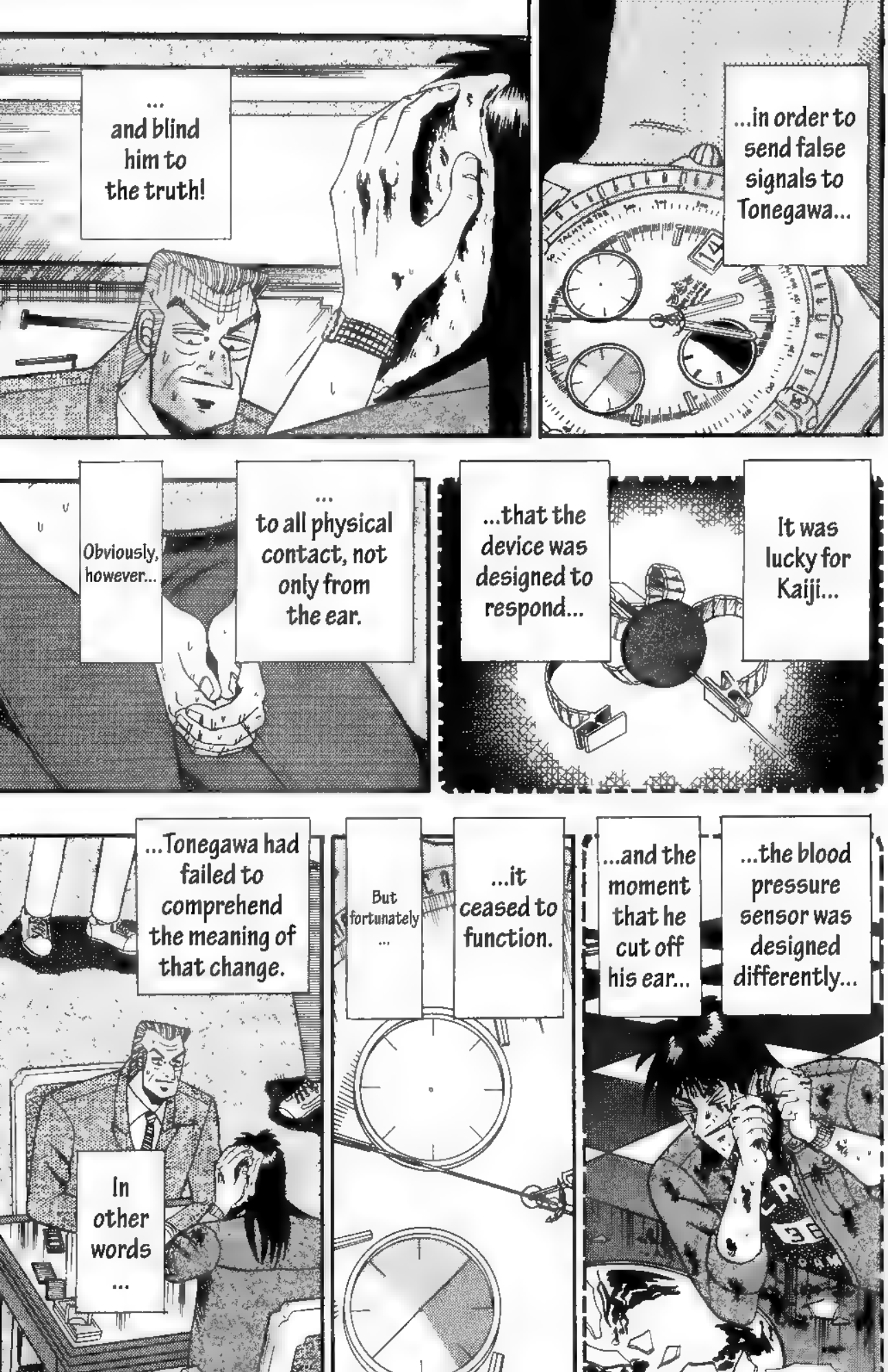
REEL
Tsk ...!

ざわ…
……



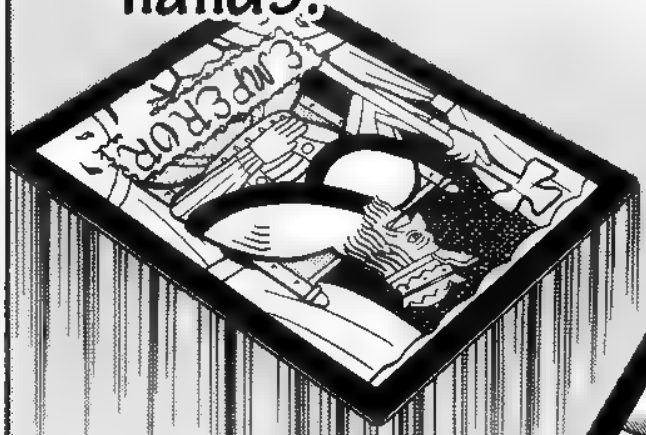
... and also ...
The device ...

The signs which Tonegawa had been relying on ...
SLUMP 10
.....
...who had been hiding in the toilet.
They belonged to another man...
.....
...had not been Kaiji's.
...the pulse, perspiration, and body temperature...
...so that someone else could hold the device in his stead...
...had removed his entire ear, device included...
Kaiji ...


...
and blind him to the truth!
...in order to send false signals to Tonegawa...
Obviously, however...
...
to all physical contact, not only from the ear.
...that the device was designed to respond...
It was lucky for Kaiji...
...Tonegawa had failed to comprehend the meaning of that change.
In other words ...
But fortunately ...
...it ceased to function.
...and the moment that he cut off his ear...
...the blood pressure sensor was designed differently...

...in order to snatch victory from the devil's hands!

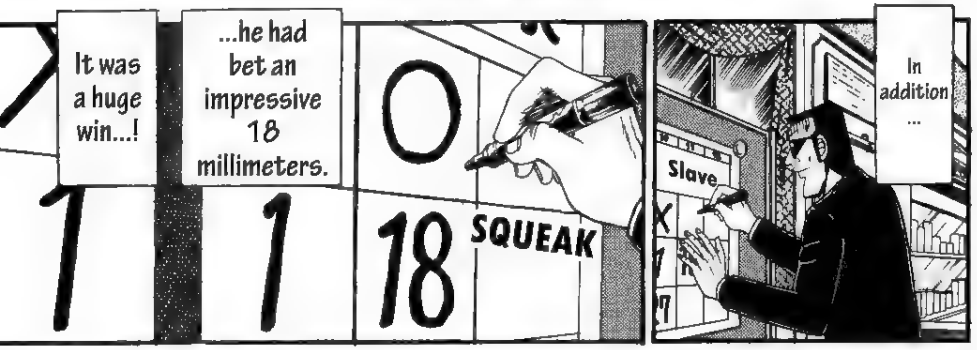
He had endured pain and fear beyond description ...



End of Chapter 123

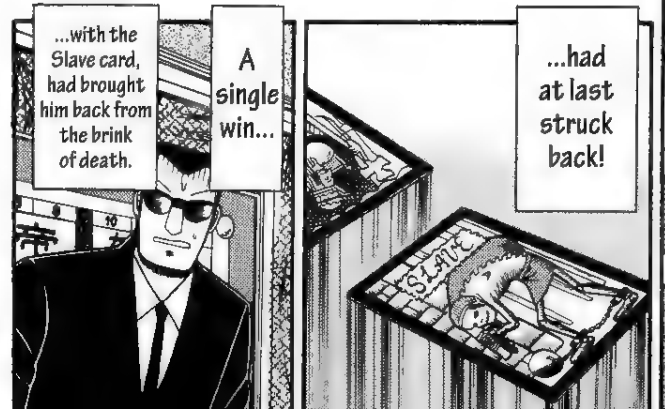
Chapter 124: Insight

One victory ...!


It was a huge win...!
...he had bet an impressive 18 millimeters.
1
1
0
18
SQUEAK
In addition ...
Slave

...or in other words ...
10
18 x 5 equals 90 ...
18 x 5.

... Kaiji ...
ざわ...
ざわ...
...with everything on the line ...
In the closing hours, the 11th match...

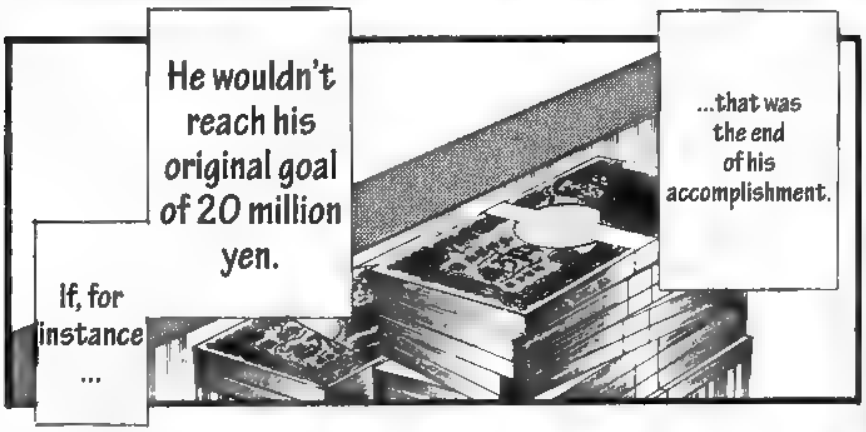

...with the Slave card, had brought him back from the brink of death.
A single win...
...had at last struck back!
SLAVE

One victory snatched from the devil's hands...!

Big money ...!
9 million yen...!

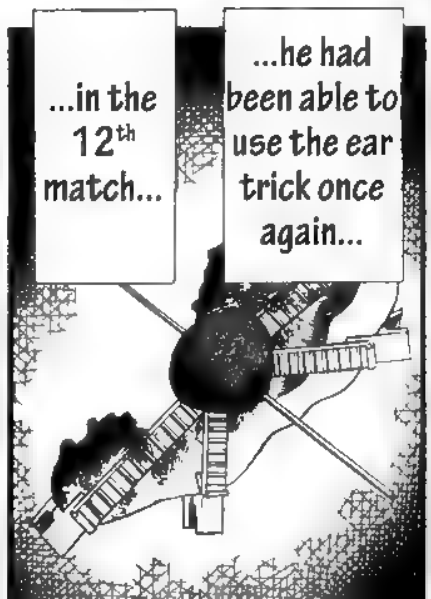
9 million ...
... it was enough cash to make his head spin.
From Kaiji's perspective ...
It was a huge score ...!

...his total came to 11.1 million!
...of 2.1 million...
Together with his earlier winnings ...
He had made it...!
He had done it...!
The debt which had saddled him for so long ...
He was free ...!
.....
He had finally passed the 10 million mark...!
...gone without a trace!
... Kaiji could wipe out all of his past debt.
With this money ...

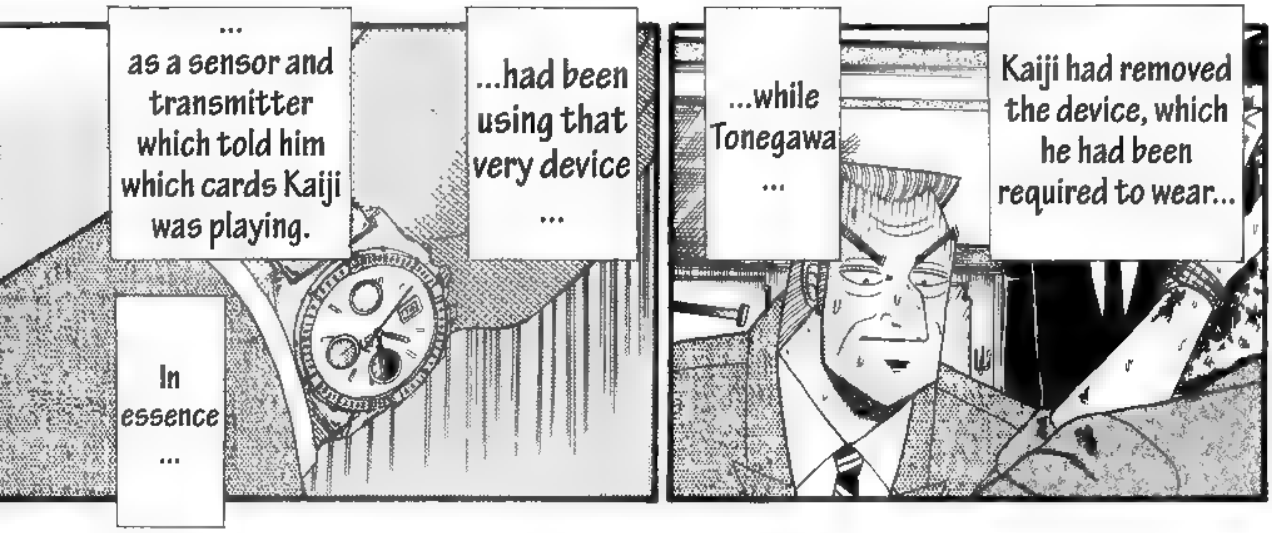

He wouldn't reach his original goal of 20 million yen.
If, for instance ...
...that was the end of his accomplishment.

On the other hand ...

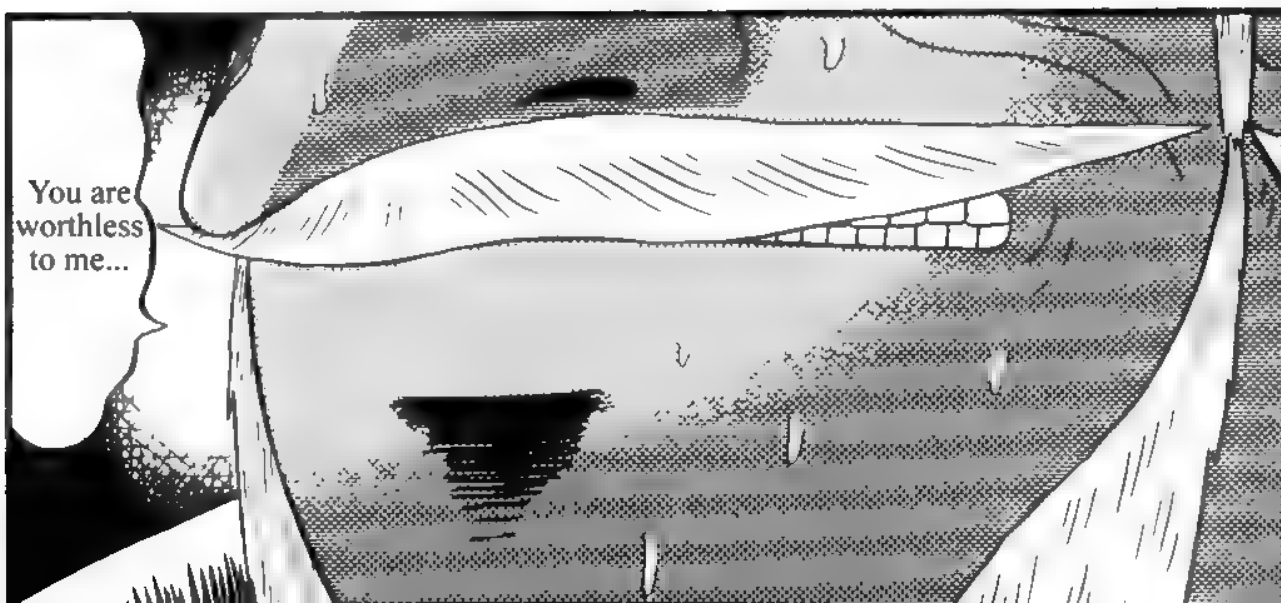
...but that option had already disappeared.
...he might have still reached 20 million...


...in the 12th match...
...he had been able to use the ear trick once again...

...the truth is, that in the 11th match...
...they had both broken the rules.
Emperor
Slave
Slave
After all...
...was Kaiji's last.
In reality, this 11th match...

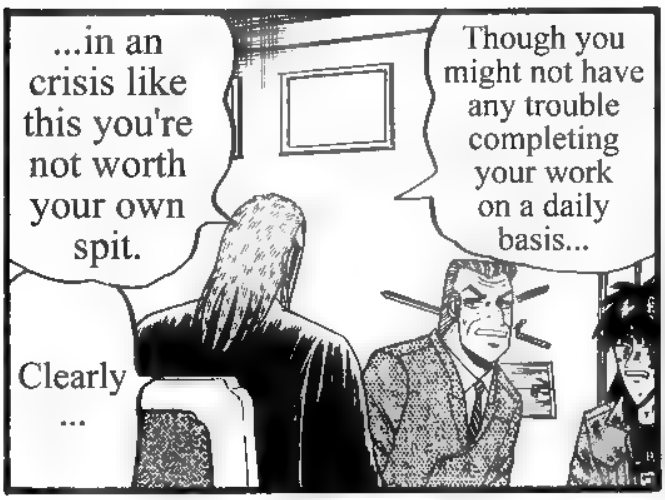

...
as a sensor and transmitter which told him which cards Kaiji was playing.
...had been using that very device ...
In essence ...
...while Tonegawa ...
Kaiji had removed the device, which he had been required to wear...

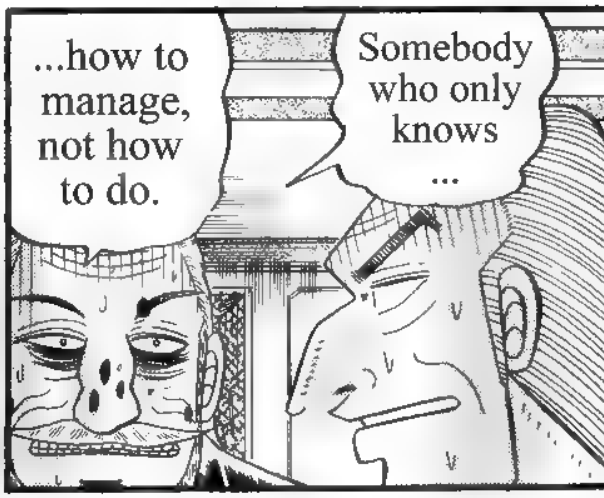
How tiresome ...
...had been Kaiji!
...
and both players had fought dirty.
...the 11th match had been like a no holds barred street brawl...
But the winner of that brawl...
EMPEROR
SLAVE

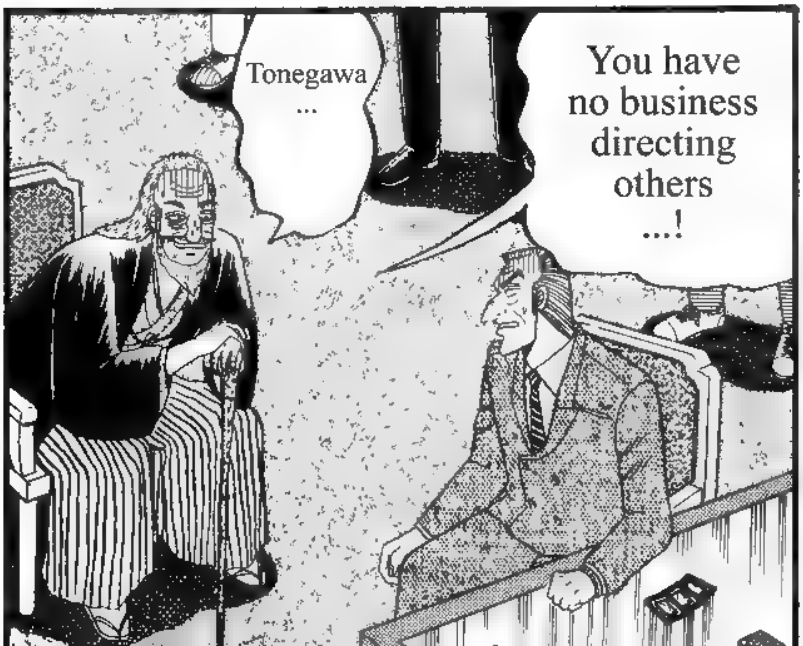

You are worthless to me...

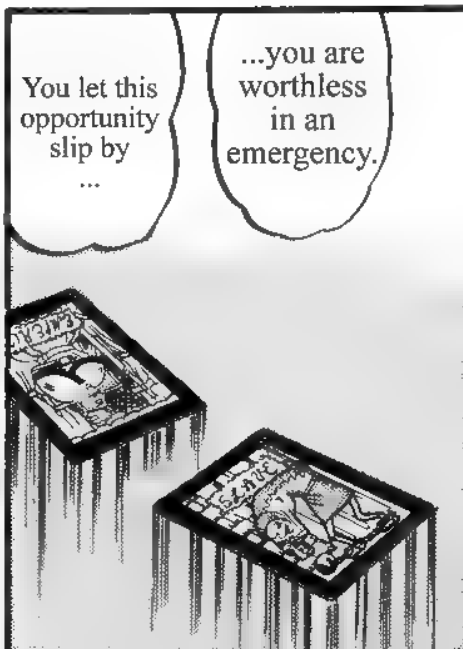
!worthless
Entirely ...
Director ...!
... but now, because of your foolish mistake...
...I've lost that chance!
...that I was about to see a rare new manner of death...
I thought ...
Director ...!
...then you're clearly not qualified for your current position!
If this is the best that you can do...
... that I was mistaken about you.
It seems ...

...who will fold at the critical juncture!
I can't rely on somebody ...

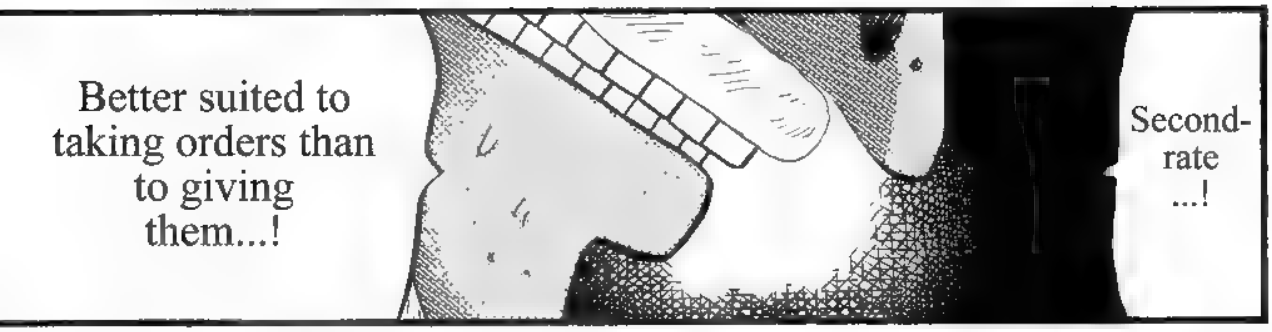

...in an crisis like this you're not worth your own spit.
Though you might not have any trouble completing your work on a daily basis...
Clearly ...

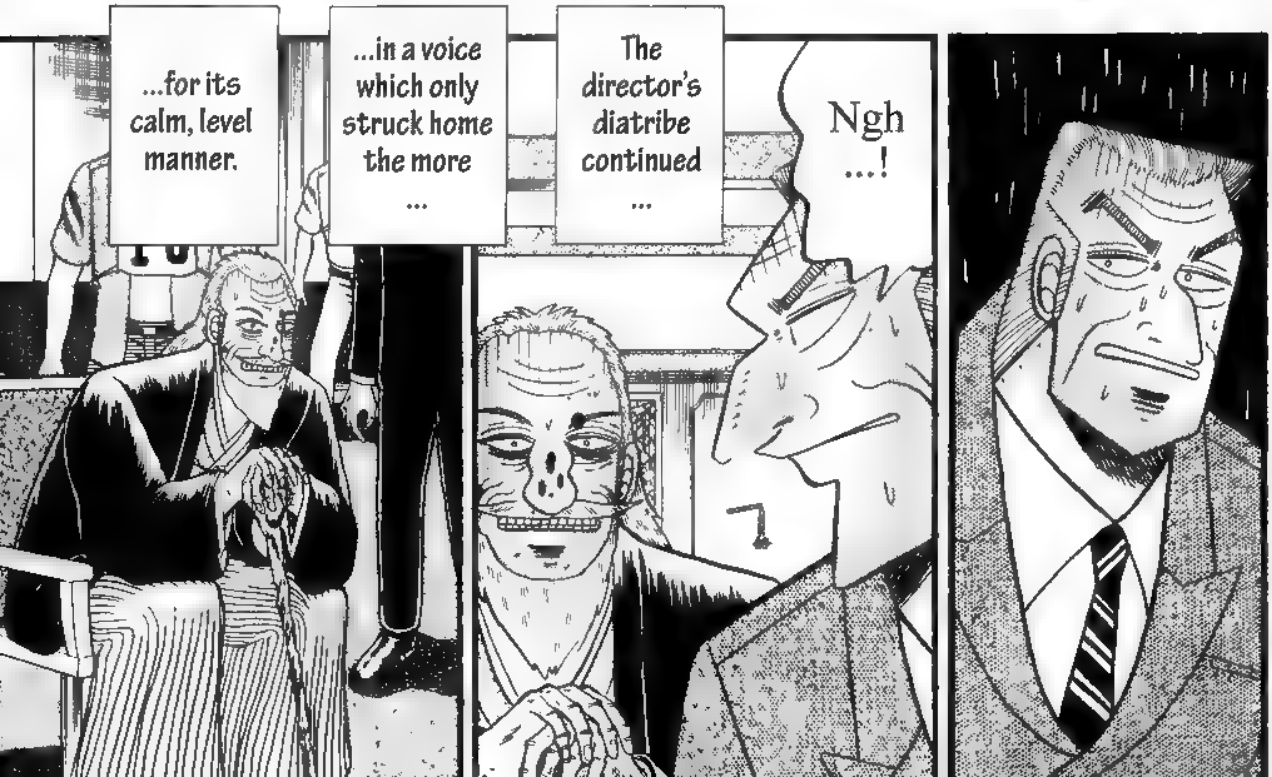

...how to manage, not how to do.
Somebody who only knows ...


Tonegawa ...
You have no business directing others ...!


You let this opportunity slip by ...
...you are worthless in an emergency.

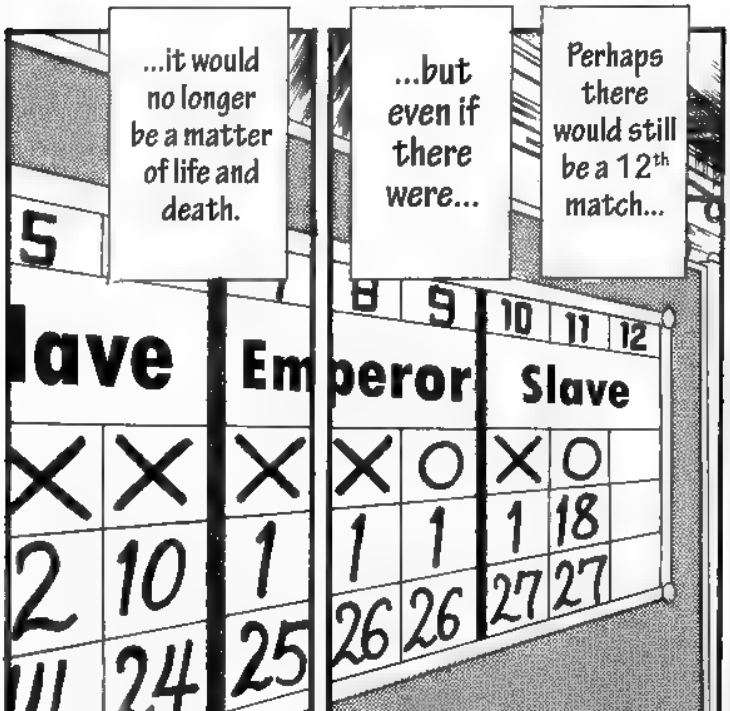
...for what you really are!
You've now shown yourself ...


Better suited to taking orders than to giving them...!
Second-rate ...!

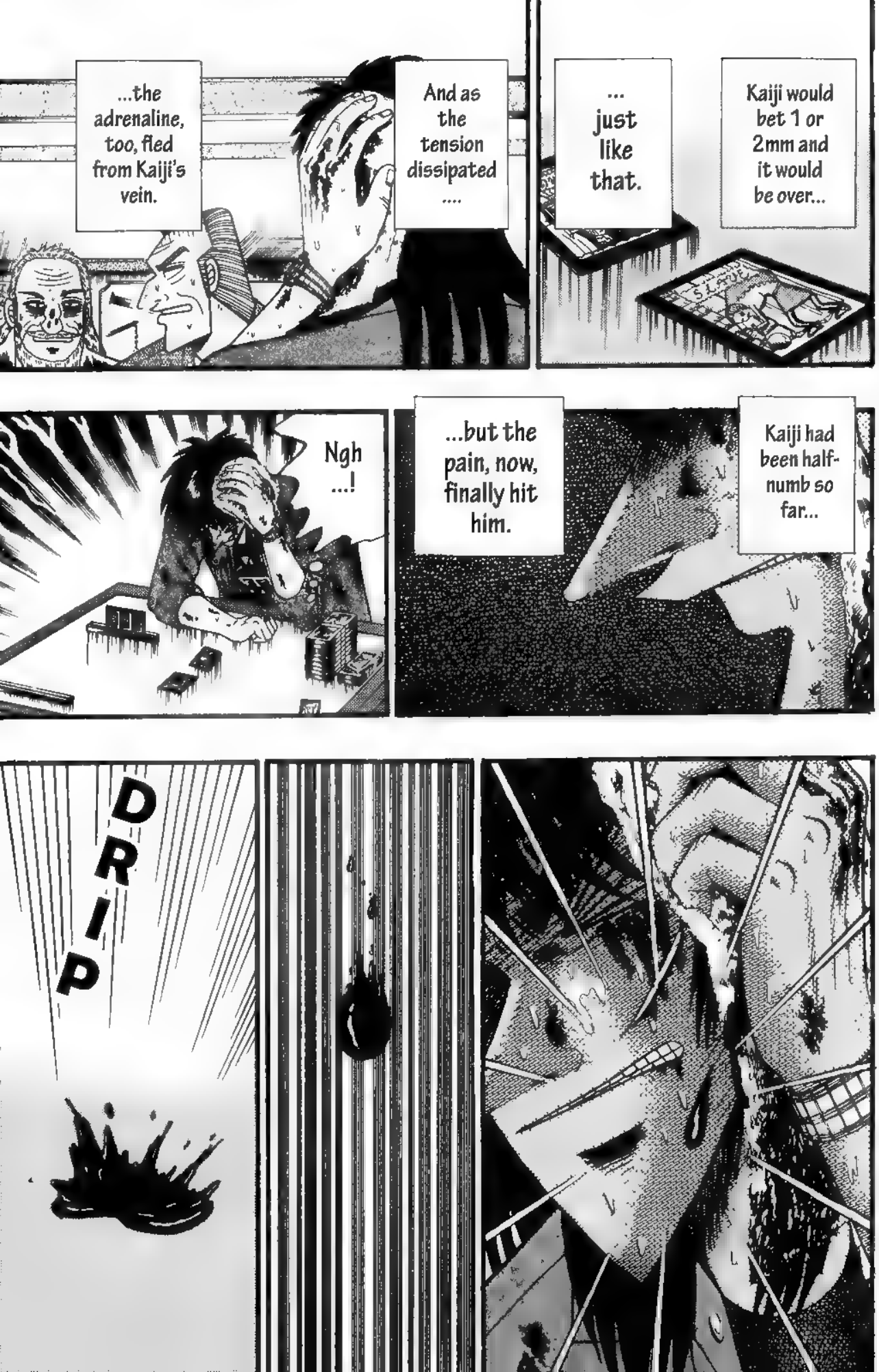

...for its calm, level manner.
...in a voice which only struck home the more ...
The director's diatribe continued ...
Ngh ...!

After all ...

...the tension in the room quickly began to dissipate.
As the director spoke ...


...it would no longer be a matter of life and death.
...but even if there were...
Perhaps there would still be a 12th match...
5
lave
Em
peror
Slave
8
9
10
11
12
1
18
27
27
26
26
2
10
1
25
24

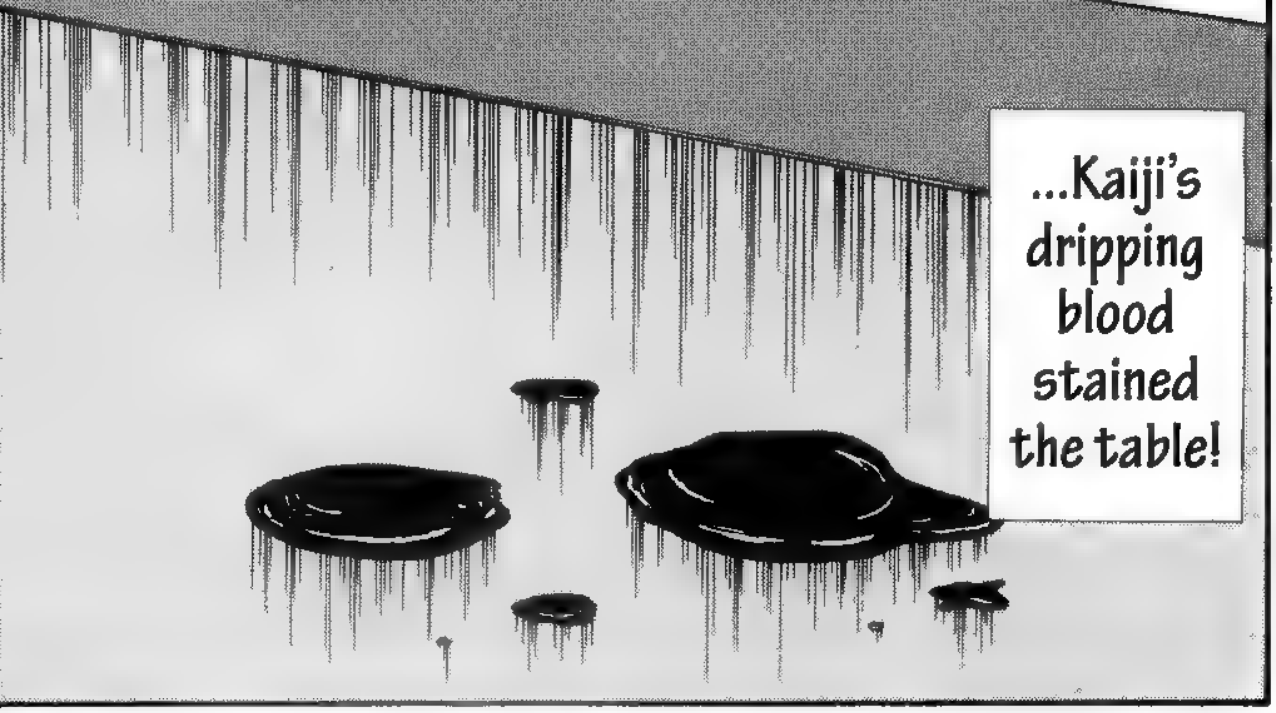
The night's game, Kaiji's ordeal, it was all over.
...it was finally over.


...the adrenaline, too, fled from Kaiji's vein.
And as the tension dissipated ....
... just like that.
Kaiji would bet 1 or 2mm and it would be over...
Ngh ...!
...but the pain, now, finally hit him.
Kaiji had been half-numb so far...
DRIP

Aiee ...!
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP

Of course ...!
Of ...
In a splattering of pain...

Get me a towel ...!



... with a revelation!

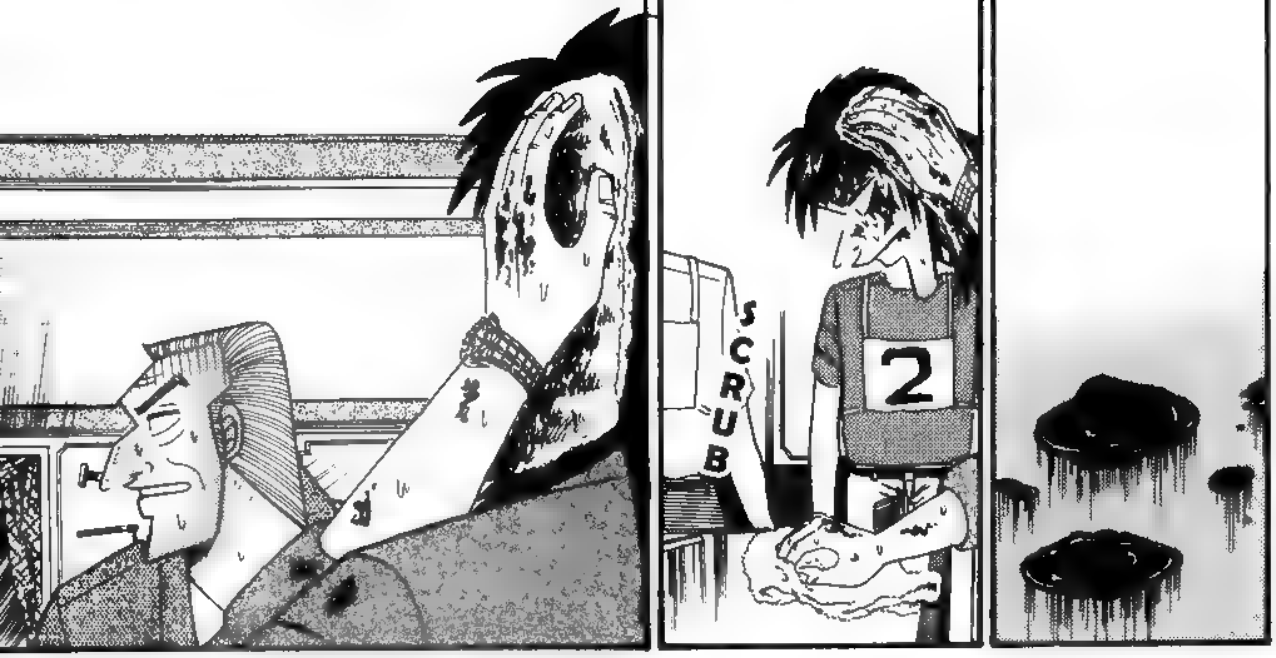
With a strategy ...!
Ahh ...!

Huh ...?

Kaiji-san ...
Team
Win/Loss
Distance Bet
Total Distance

Wait a sec ...!

Thanks ...


SCRUB
2

If I can turn these to my advantage ...
...my bleeding ...
... together with...
...and powers of observation ...
Tonegawa's personality ...

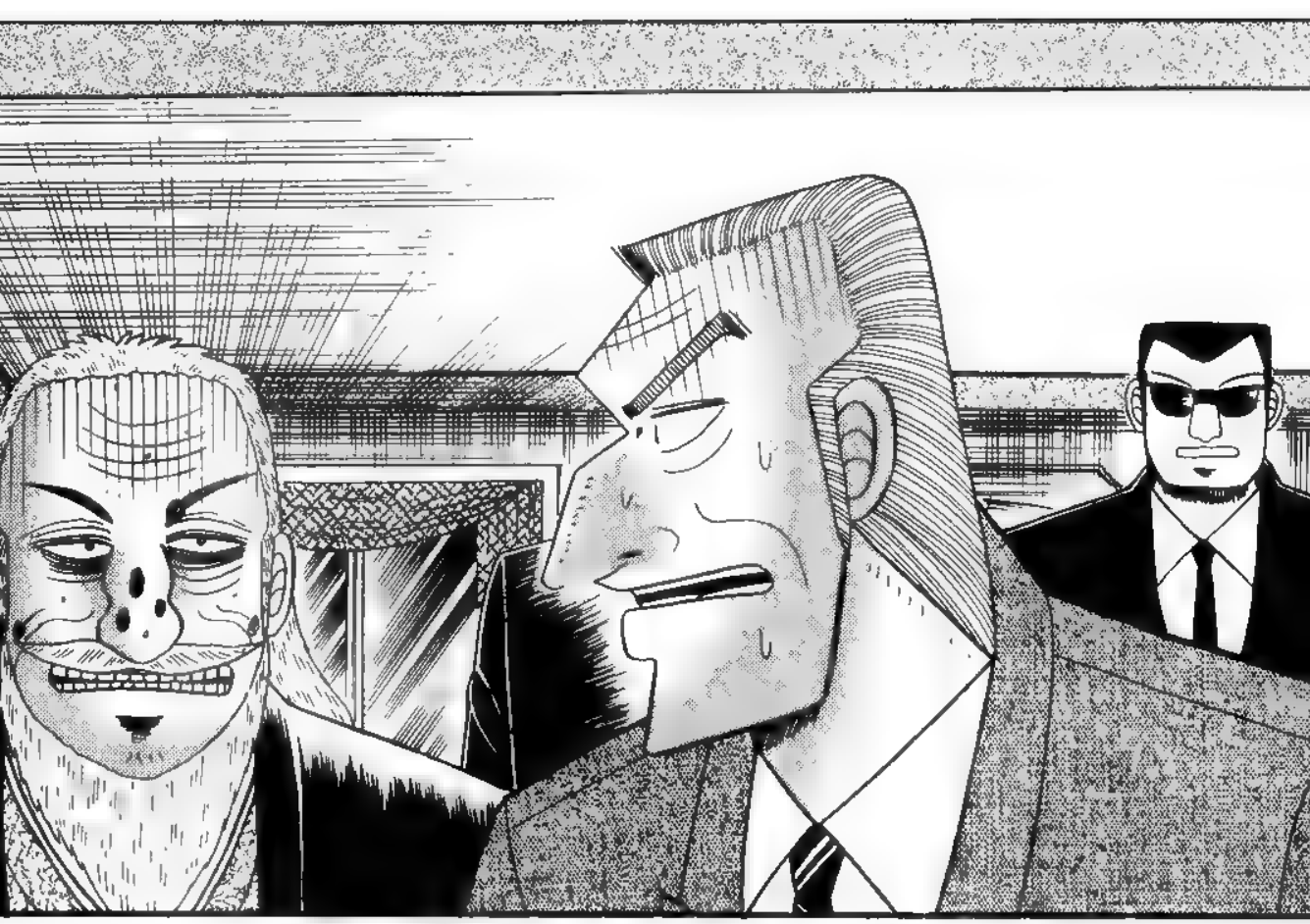
...I can win the 12th match, too!
End of Chapter 124

Chapter 125: Deception

I can win this ...!
KESO
1C

But still ...
...the 12th match, too!
There's a way for me to win ...

There's not guarantee ...!
It's not a 100% chance ...
Still ...



But if I misfire and the plan fails...
...and steps into my trap.

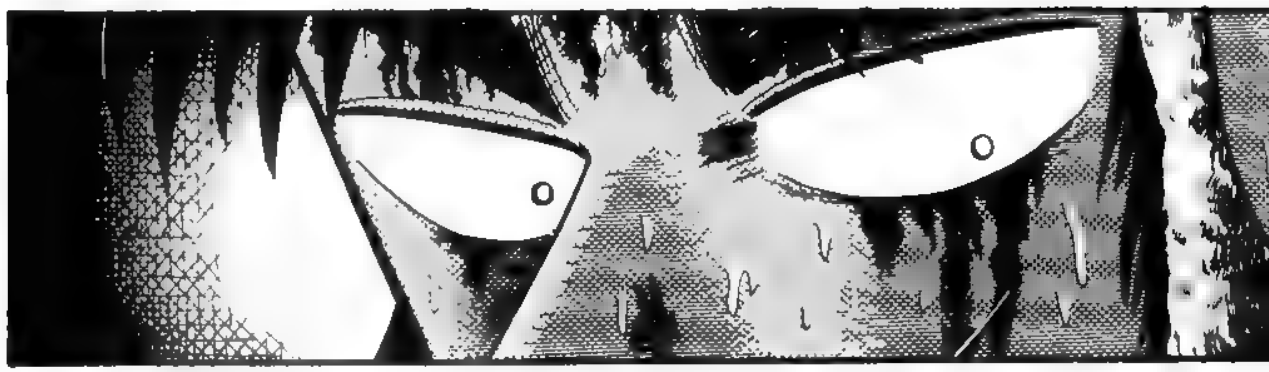
...if Tonegawa falls for it...
It will be fine ...

I've already won...
I don't need to expose myself to that danger ...

Should I just let it go ...?

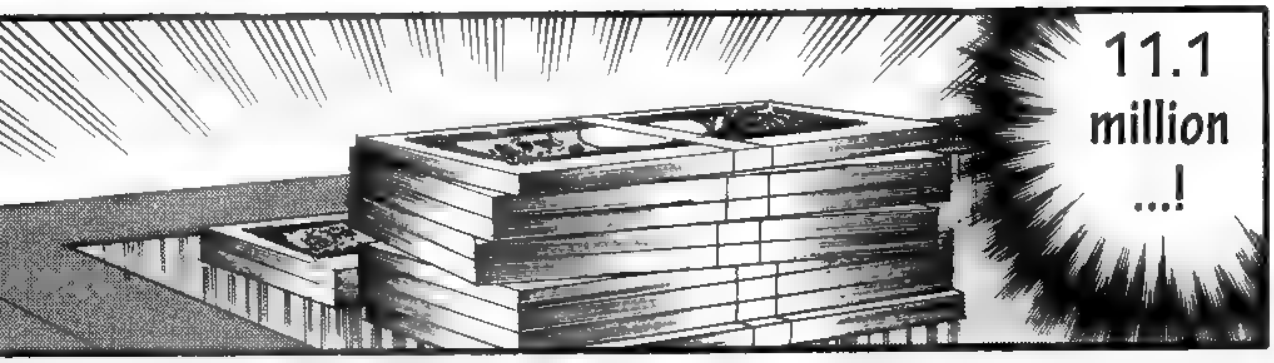
My death ...!
... it will mean death!

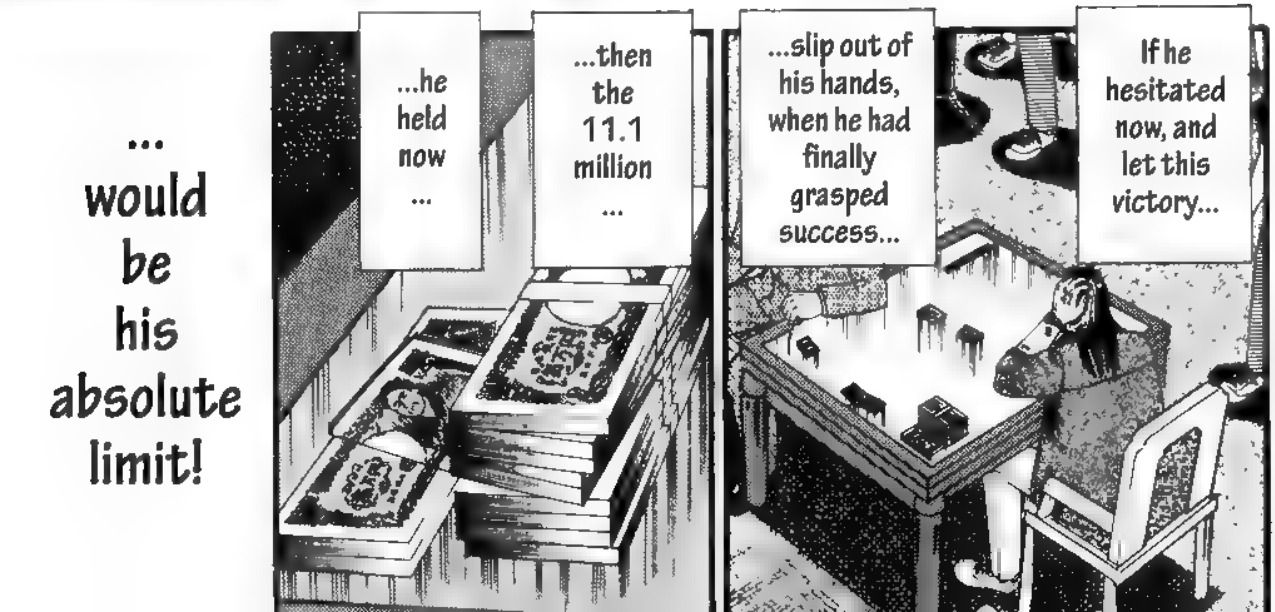
...
11.1
million
yen!



Absolutely suddenly ...
... suddenly ...
As Kaiji considered his options ...
That's a lot of money...

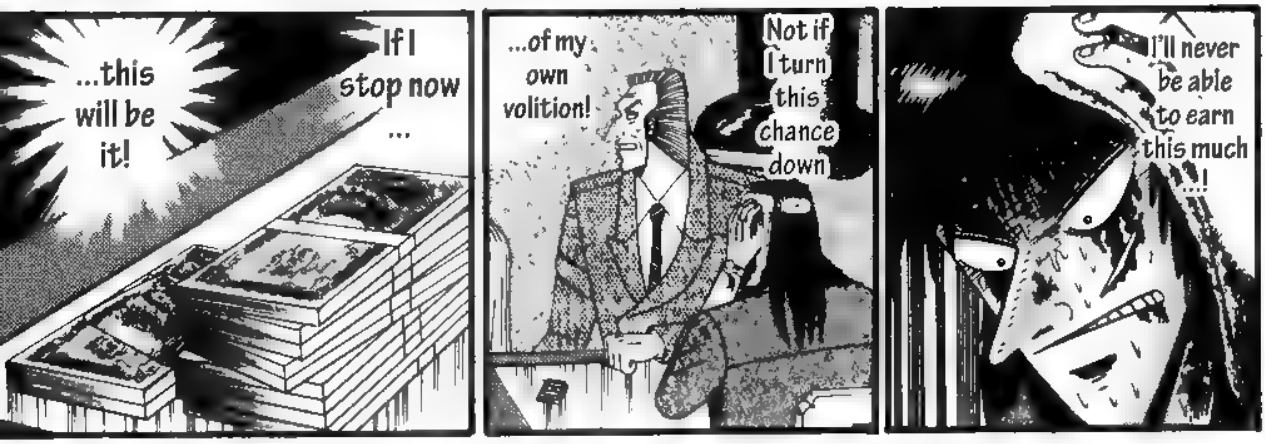
...Kaiji was struck by a flash of intuition!
...like a bolt of lightning ...


11.1 million ...!


...he held now ...
...then the 11.1 million ...
...slip out of his hands, when he had finally grasped success...
If he hesitated now, and let this victory...
... would be his absolute limit!

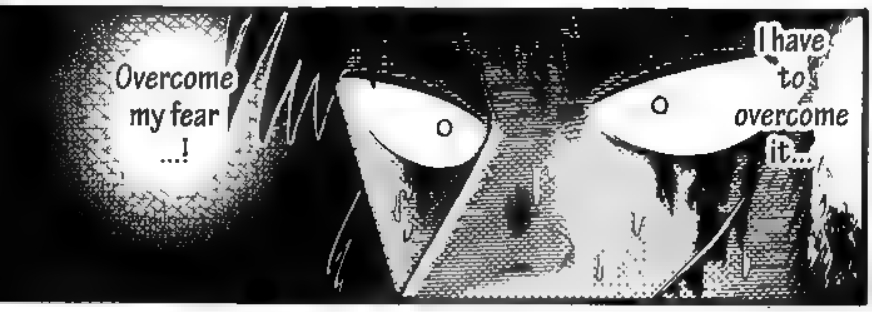
...that he might never hold that much money again in his life.
Kaiji knew ...

It was intuition ...!
It was a premonition ...!


...this will be it!
If I stop now ...
...of my own volition!
Not if I turn this chance down
I'll never be able to earn this much ...!

Damning my possibilities ...!
I'll be damning myself ...!
It will be my fault ...!
...to blame anyone else.
I won't be able ...

...between what I can do and what I can't!
I'll be drawing a line ...
I have to persevere ...!
I have to keep moving ...!
I can't draw that line ...!
But I can't ...!
I can't do that ...!

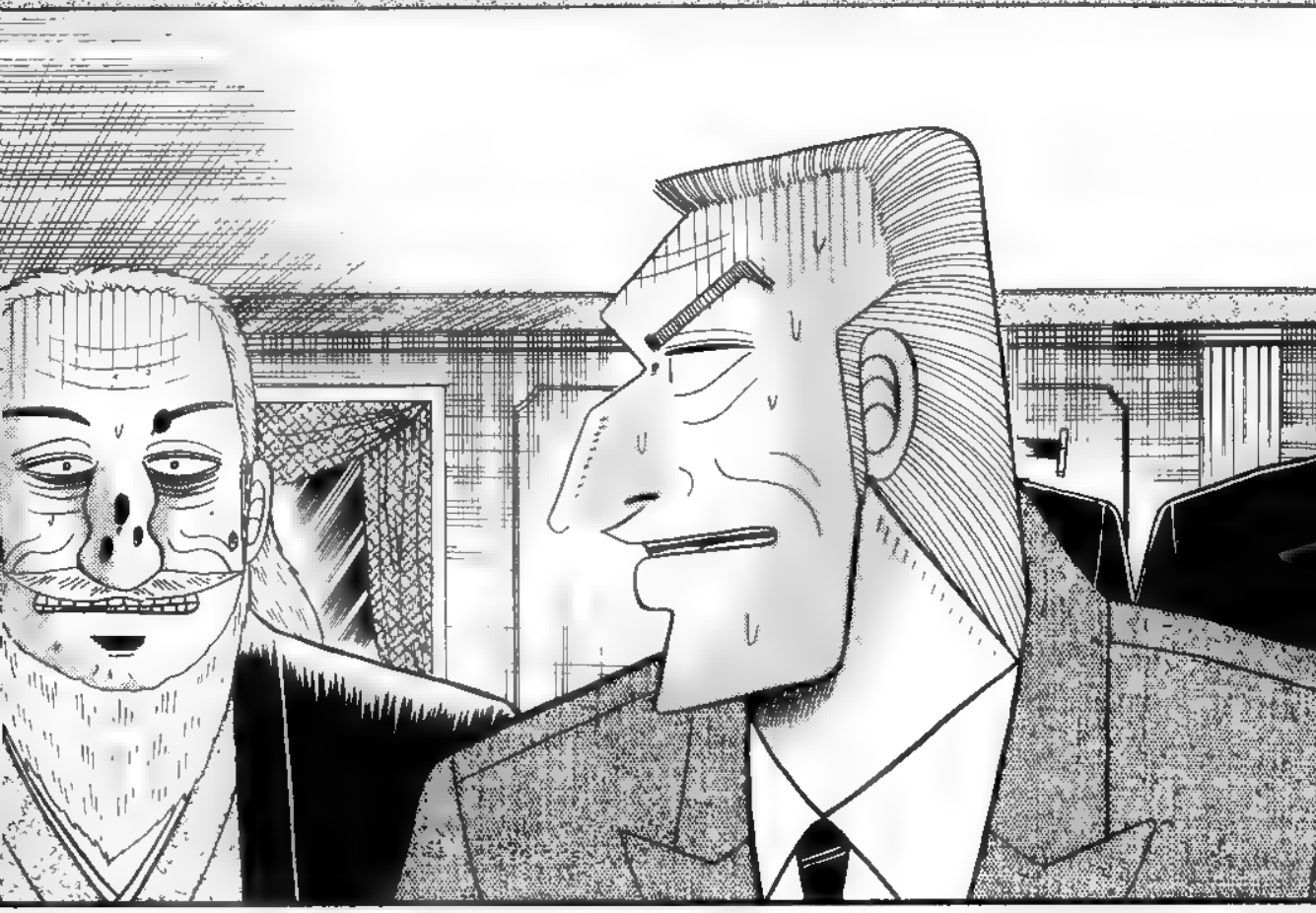


It's time to set sail ...

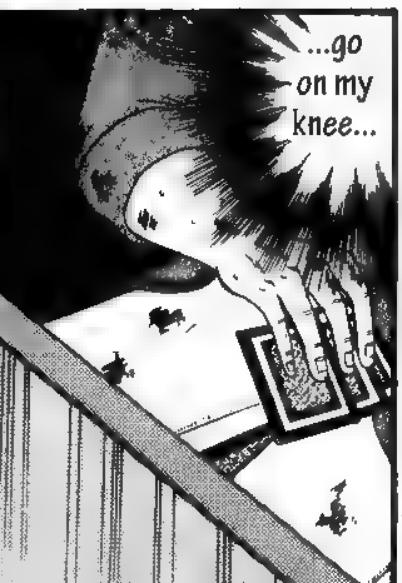
... doesn't come around every day!

Set sail on the sea of victory ...!
...
one more time!

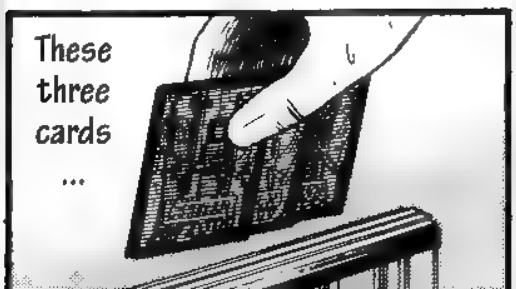
It's time to Win, one more time!!!



Let's see ...
...my first move?


...go on my knee...

First these ...
HAH

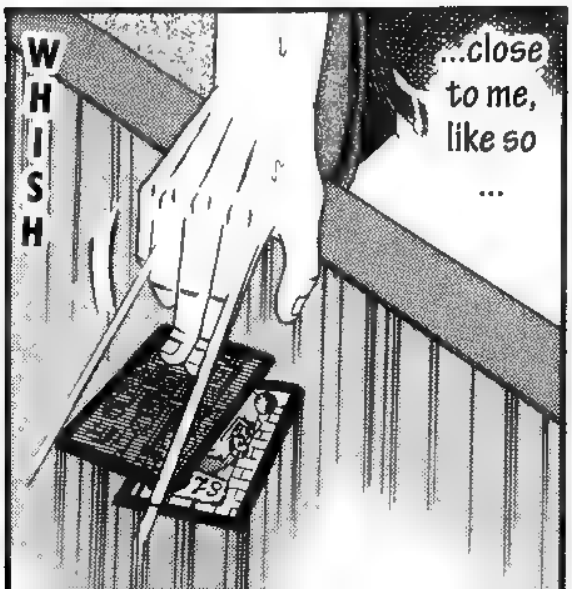

These three cards ...

Here ...

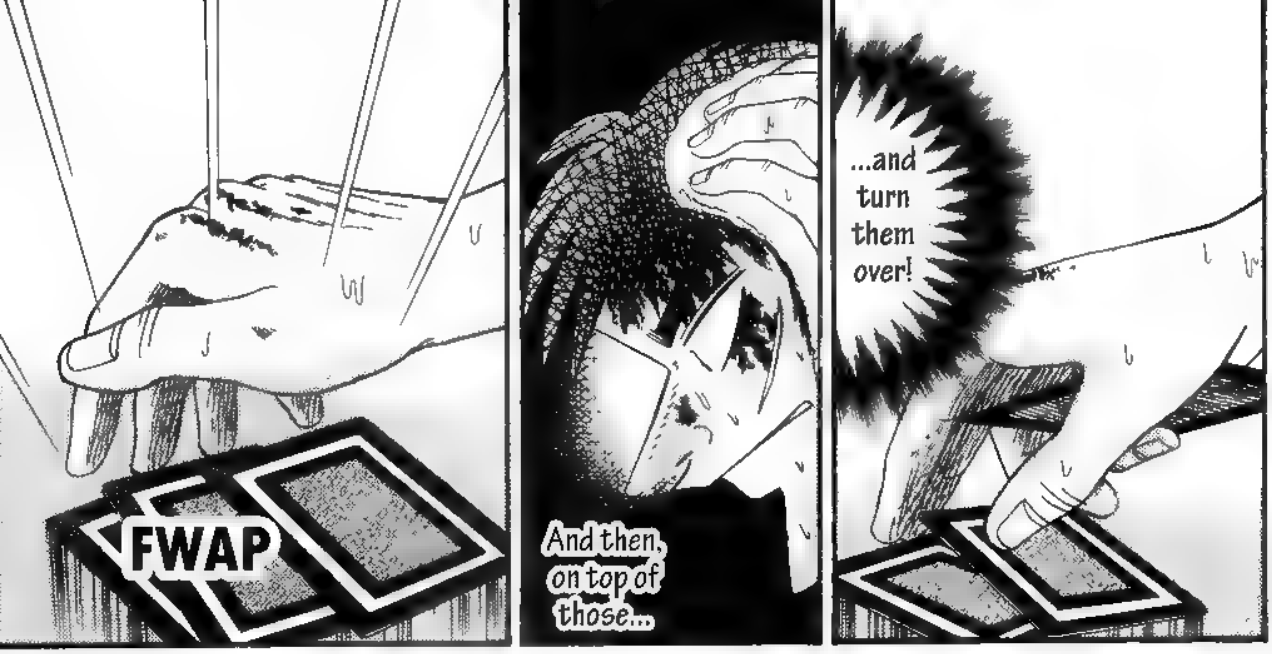
...
one card
in my
hand!

And
then
...

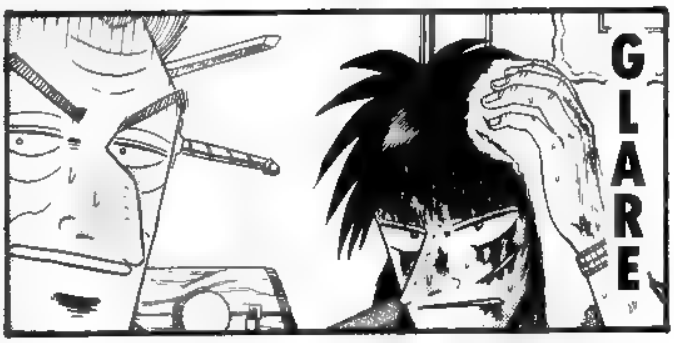
HAH...
HAH...
TH-THUMP...
TH-THUMP...
.....

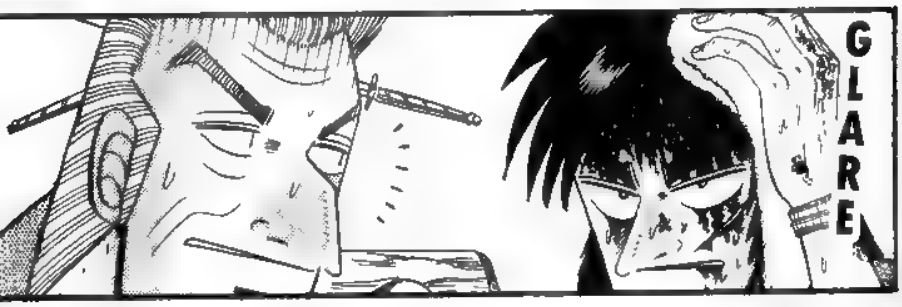

WHISH
...close
to me,
like so
...

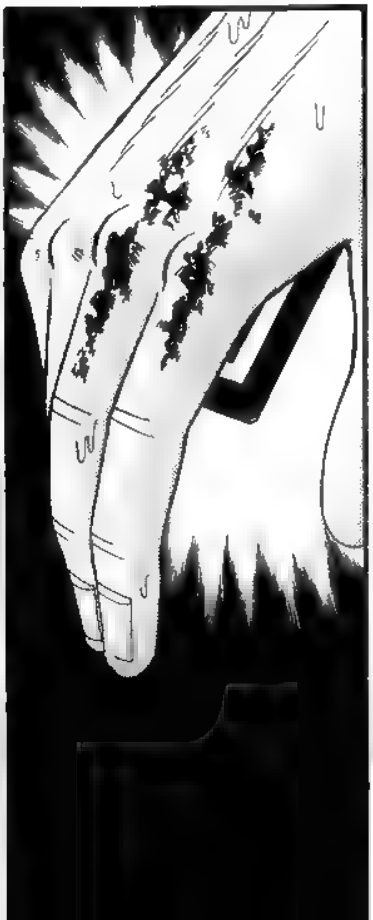
...I bring
the two
cards I
used in
the 11th
match...
Next
...

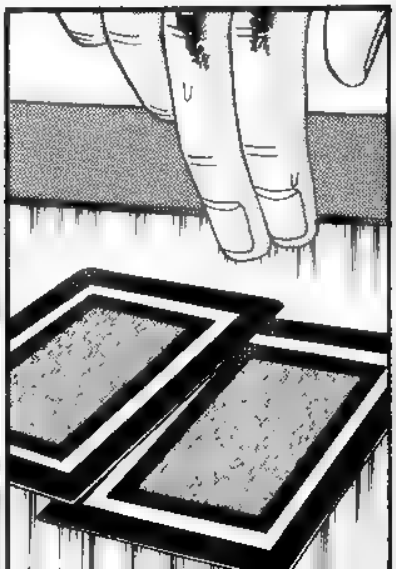


Next...

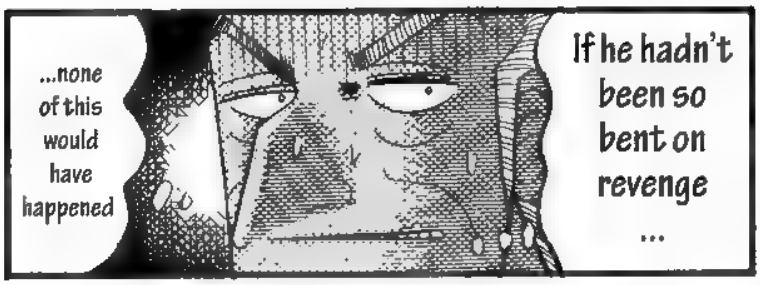






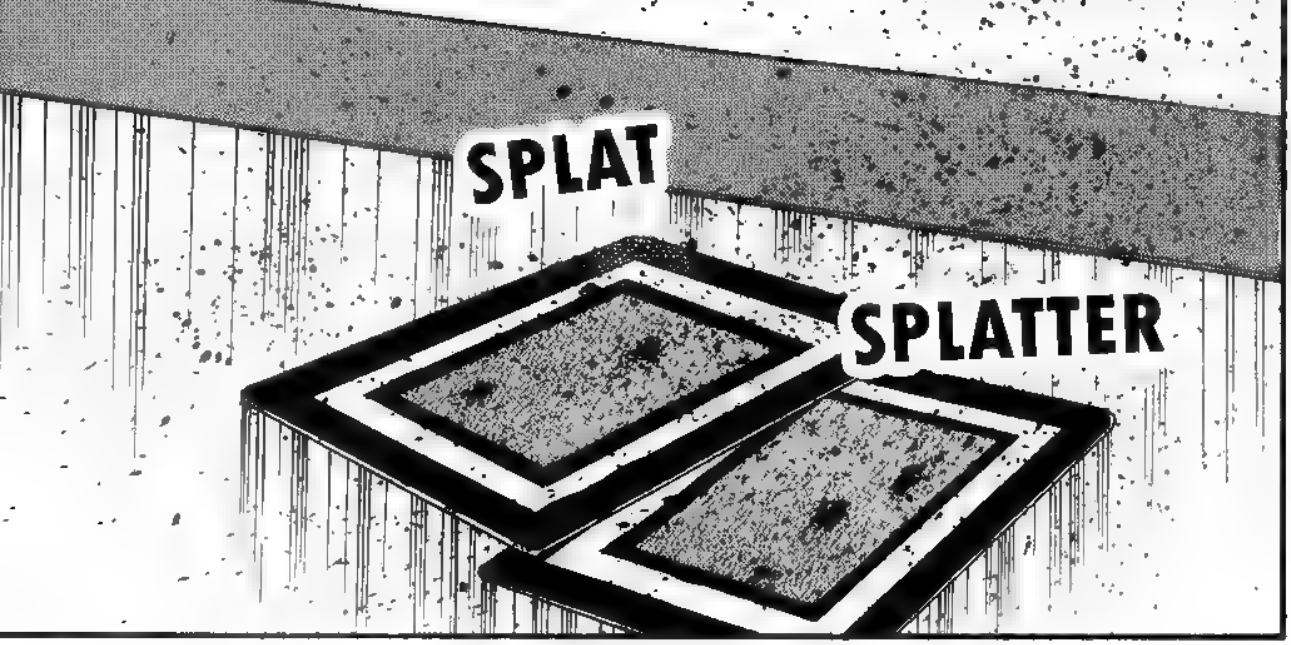


Confound it...!
.....


...none of this would have happened
If he hadn't been so bent on revenge ...

... fool!
That no-good ...

Ahh ...!


SPLAT
SPLATTER

Tonegawa ...
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...
.....
Ngh ...!

I wanna bet 18mm one more time ...!
One more time ...
Huh ...?
How about I give you a chance to redeem yourself ...?

End of Chapter 125

Chapter 126: Double or Nothing

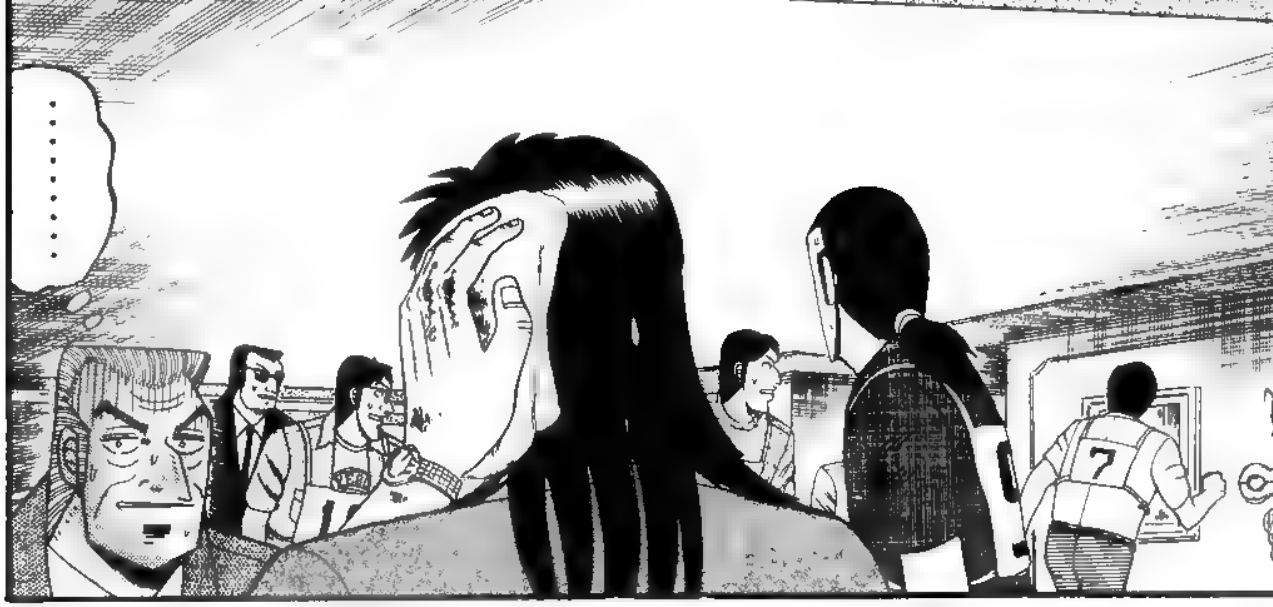
ざわ…
ざわ…
ざわ…
ざわ…
ざわ…
One more time …!
One more game of life and death …!

Kaiji-san ...!
What are you saying ...!?
.....
Kaiji-san ...!

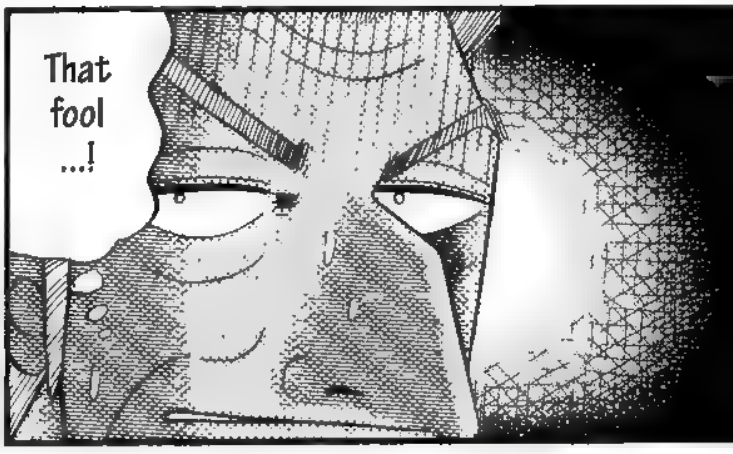
Listen to him ...!
You got lucky ...!
... was practically a miracle.
That win ...
You need to stop ...!

.....
Kaiji-san ...!
The next time you won't be so lucky ...
You've won enough ...!
Leave me alone ...!
... Kaiji-san!

Be quiet ...!
Kaiji-san ...!
I can't back down now ...!
I'm on a winning streak ...
Just bring me ...
A towel ...!
... another towel!
.....
RUSH
ざわ…
.....
Hurry up ...!
Kaiji ...


.....

Hehehe...
He's letting himself get carried away...


That fool ...!

Excellent...!

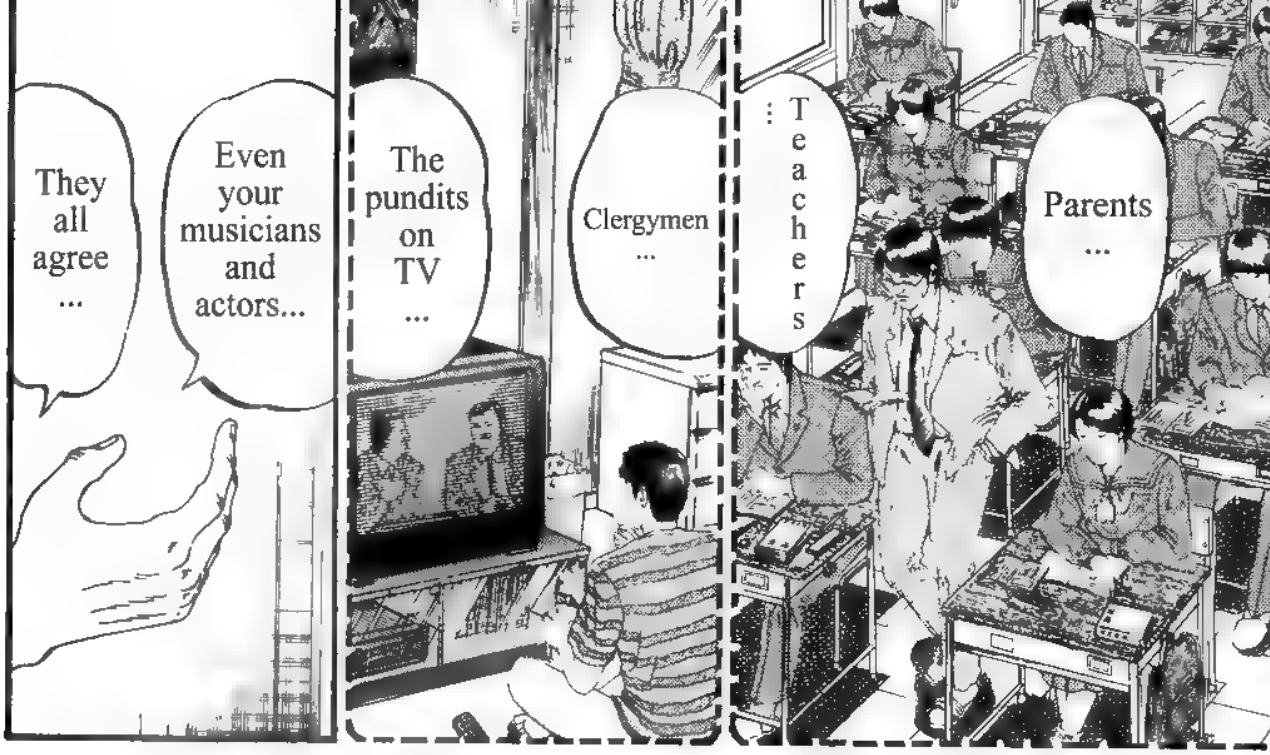
Heehehe...

.....
.....

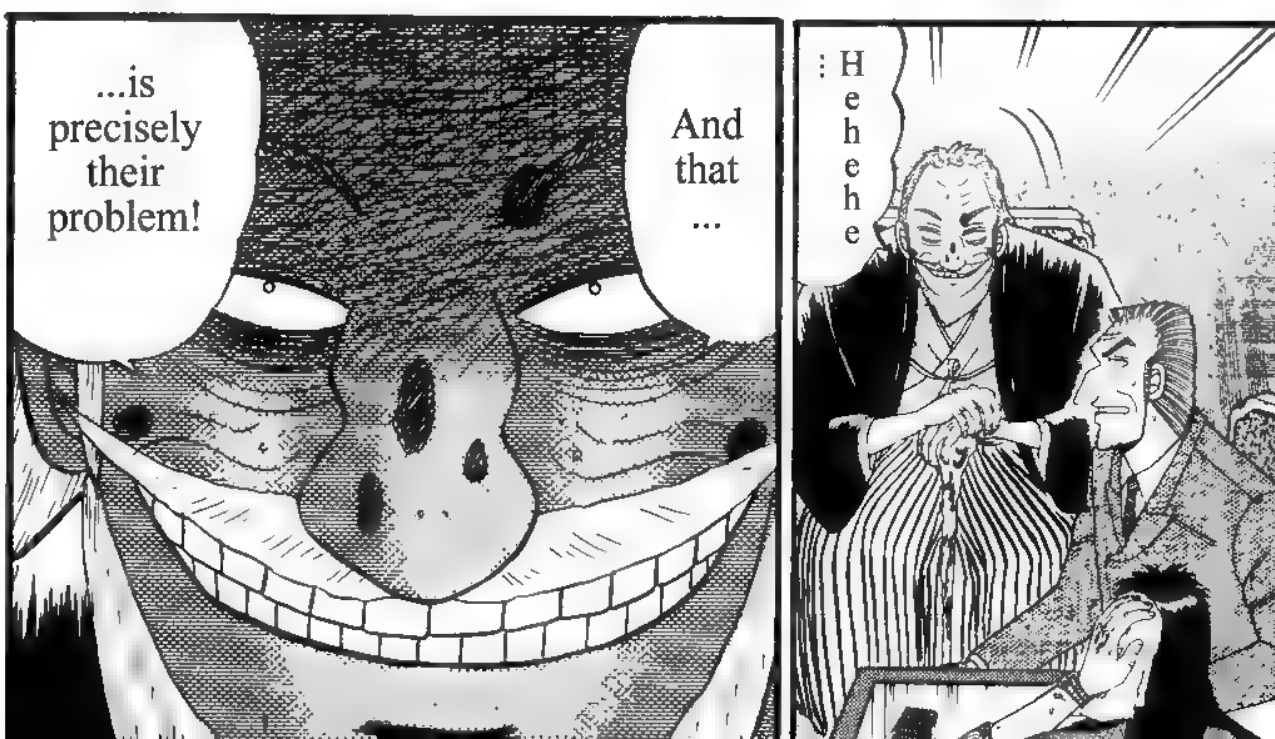
This life ...

That is what people say...!
You have to cherish it...

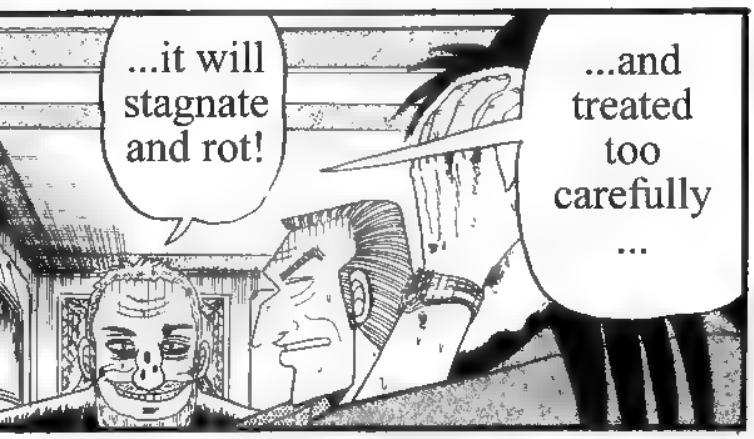
... is the only one you've got ...


They all agree ...
Even your musicians and actors...
The pundits on TV ...
Clergymen ...
Teachers ...
Parents ...

.....
...that life is precious!


...is precisely their problem!
And that ...
Hehehe

Life
...
...should not be treated with kid gloves.

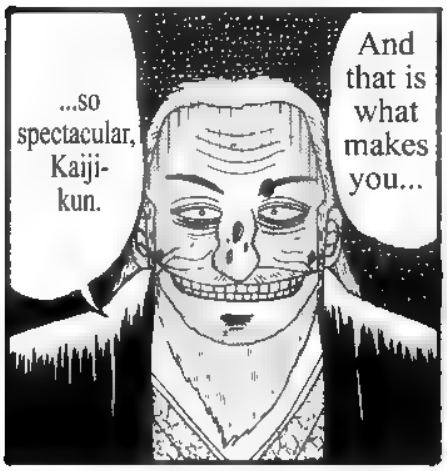

...it will stagnate and rot!
...and treated too carefully
...

If life
...
...is coddled
...

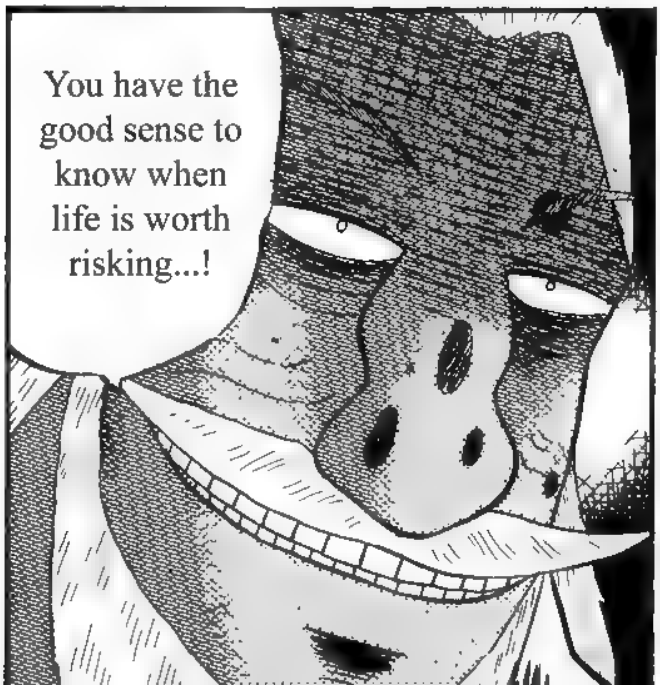
As a result, when their chance comes...
They pamper themselves
...
...they miss out
...
IHSAN
1

...have gone too far
...
Folks these days
...

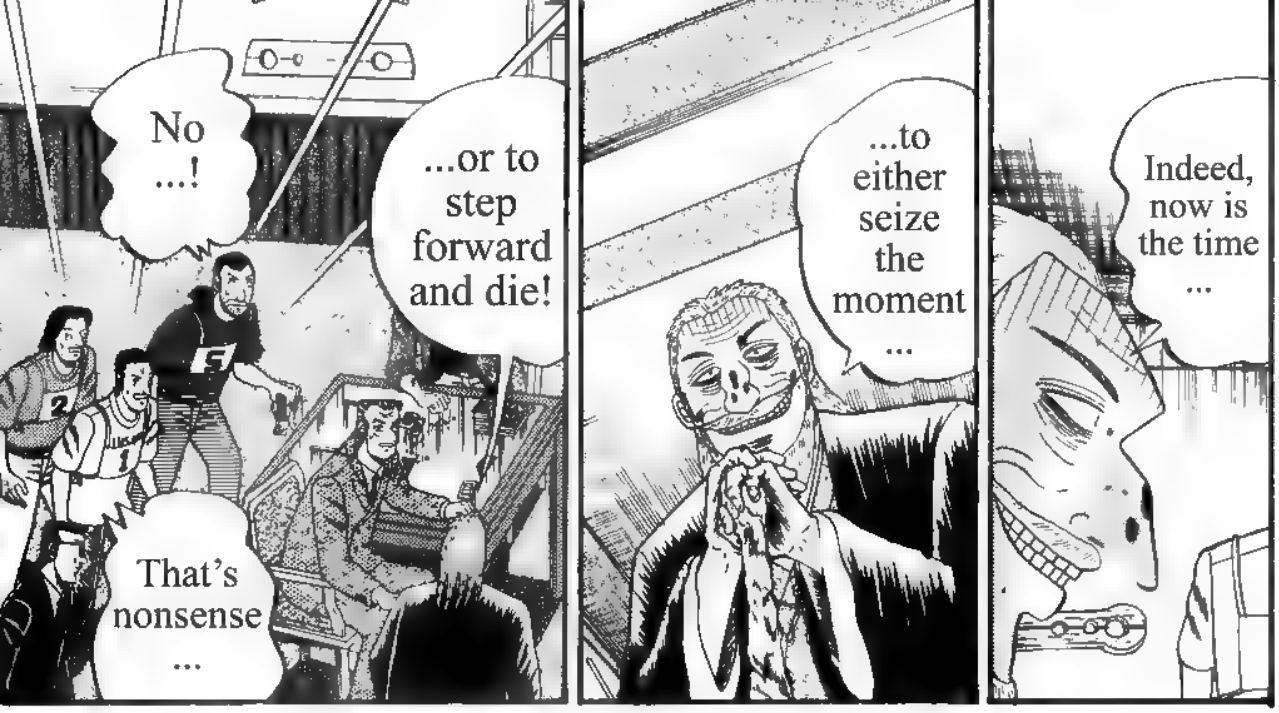
...while their minds rot!
They shuffle in retreat ...
tokimekids
NOVA
KYUTO


...so spectacular, Kaiji-kun.
And that is what makes you...

.....
Hehehe ...

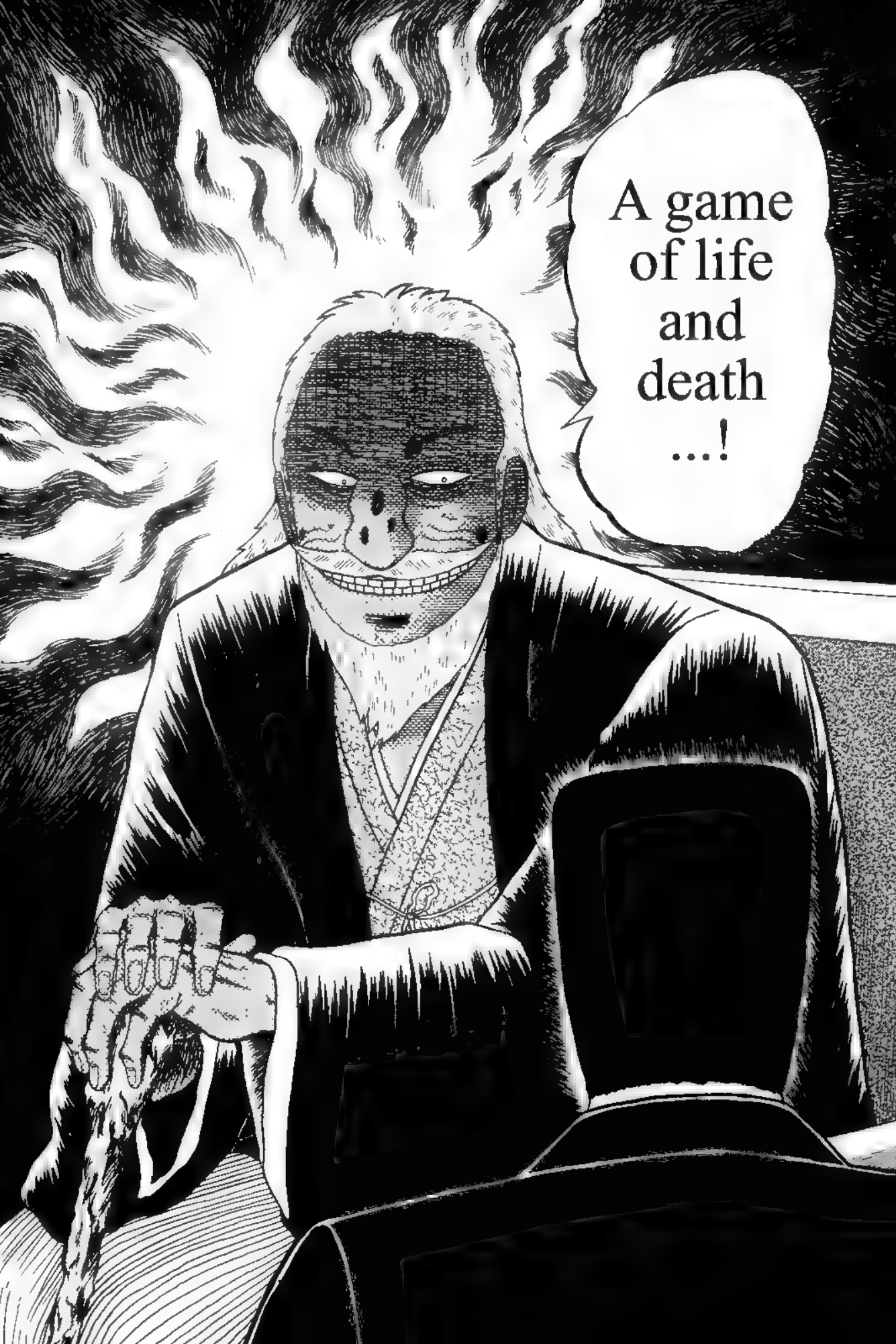

You have the good sense to know when life is worth risking...!

...but I expected no less from you.
Very insightful ...

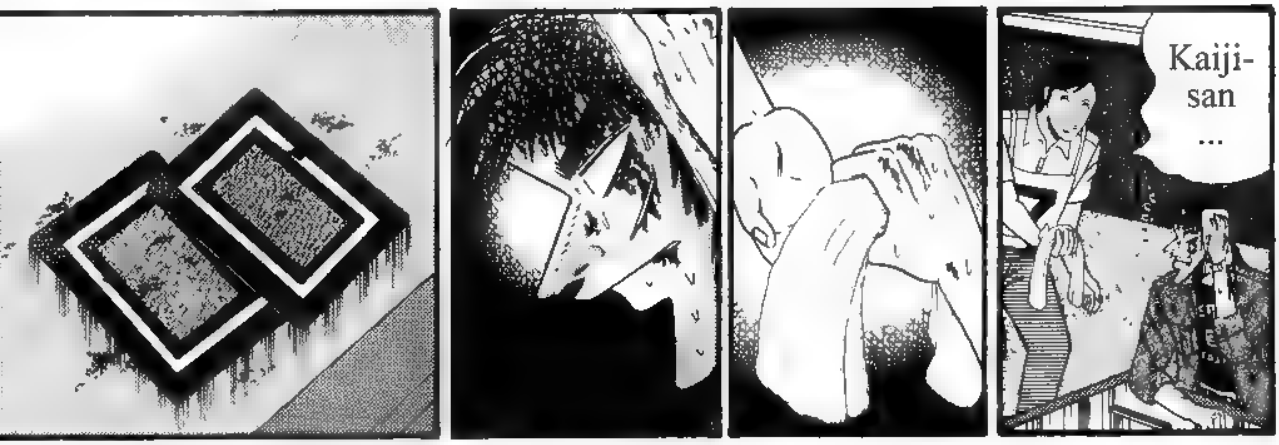

No ...!
That's nonsense ...
...or to step forward and die!
...to either seize the moment ...
Indeed, now is the time ...

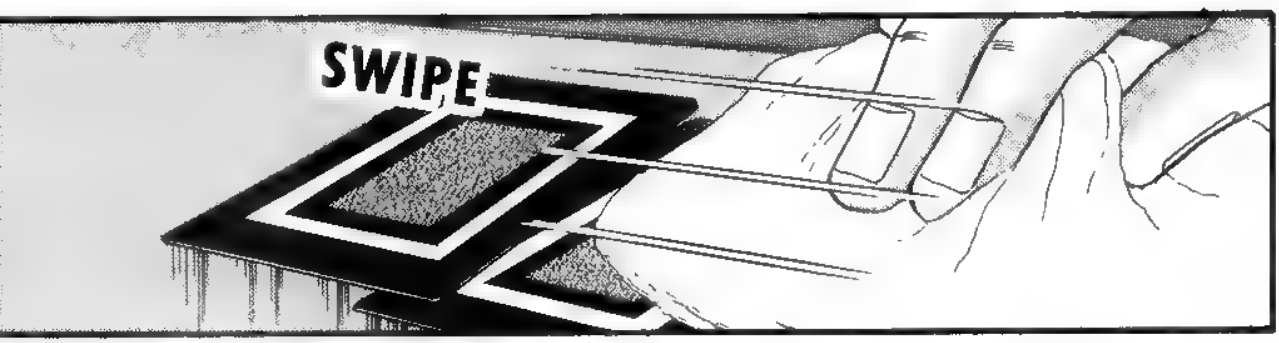
This sentiment is beyond you...!
All you care about is living ...
Pathetic maggots like you wouldn't understand.
He's crazy ...!

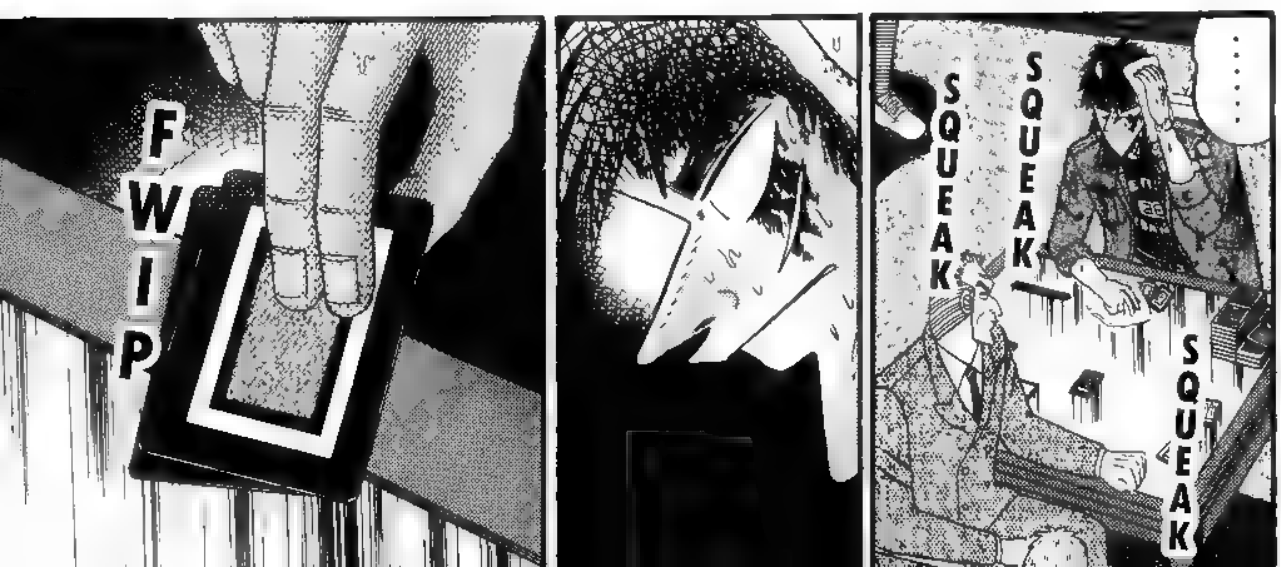
The bet is 18mm ...!
One more round ...!
Attach the device to Kaiji-kun's other ear.
Make the preparations.
I accept his offer ...!
You there ...!

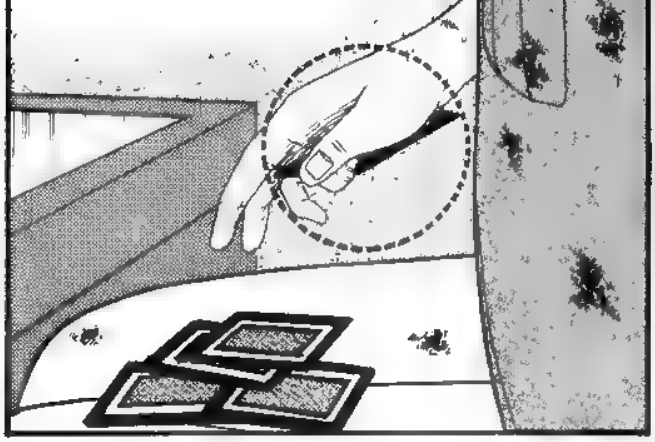

A game of life and death ...!

.....
Hehehe
...


Kaiji-
san
...

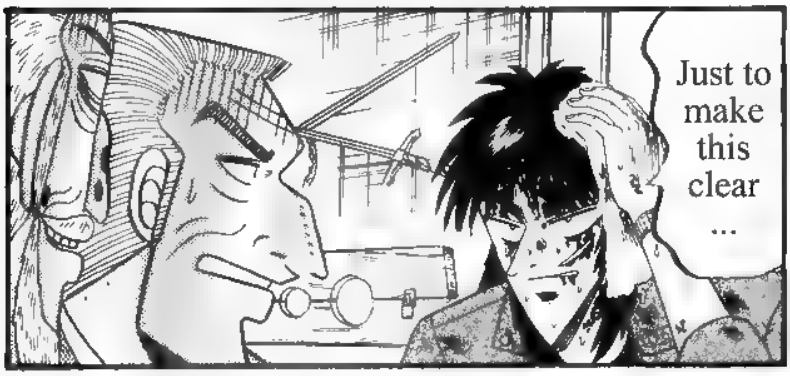

SWIPE


FWIP
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
.....



THWAP

FWIP

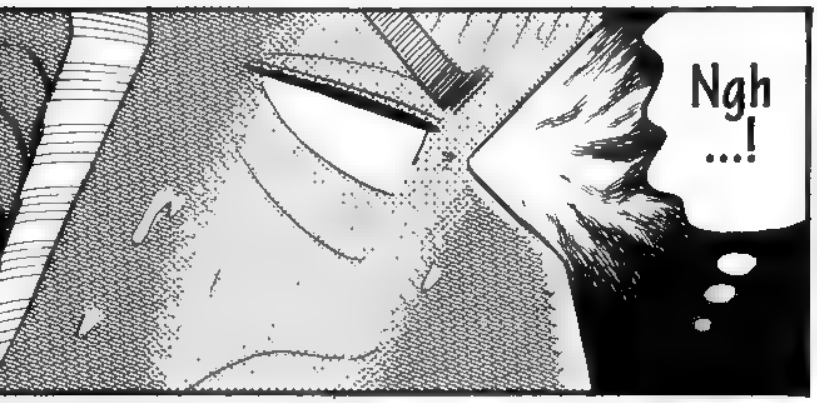

Just to make this clear ...

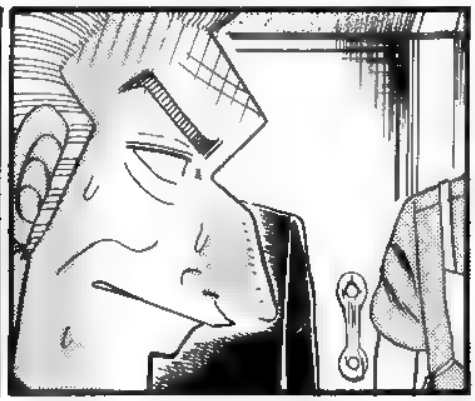
To all our friends ...
...you'll apologize, Tonegawa!
... who have died.

... and then ...
If I win you'll pay the 9 million with no excuses...

...but you will pay!

Understand
⋮
!?


Ngh
...!



I always keep my word ...!
Relax.

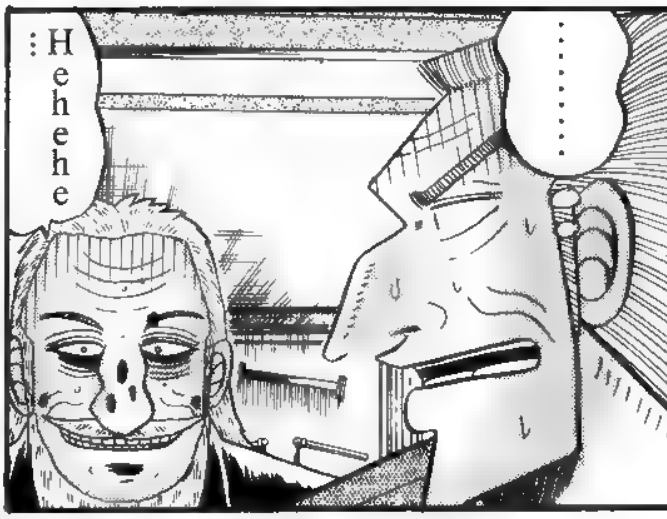
Hehehe
...

...I will have Tonegawa apologize ...
... kneeling in the dirt, or whatever other position you like!

If you win I will pay ...
...and, as promised ...

Make the preparations ...!

Hey ...!

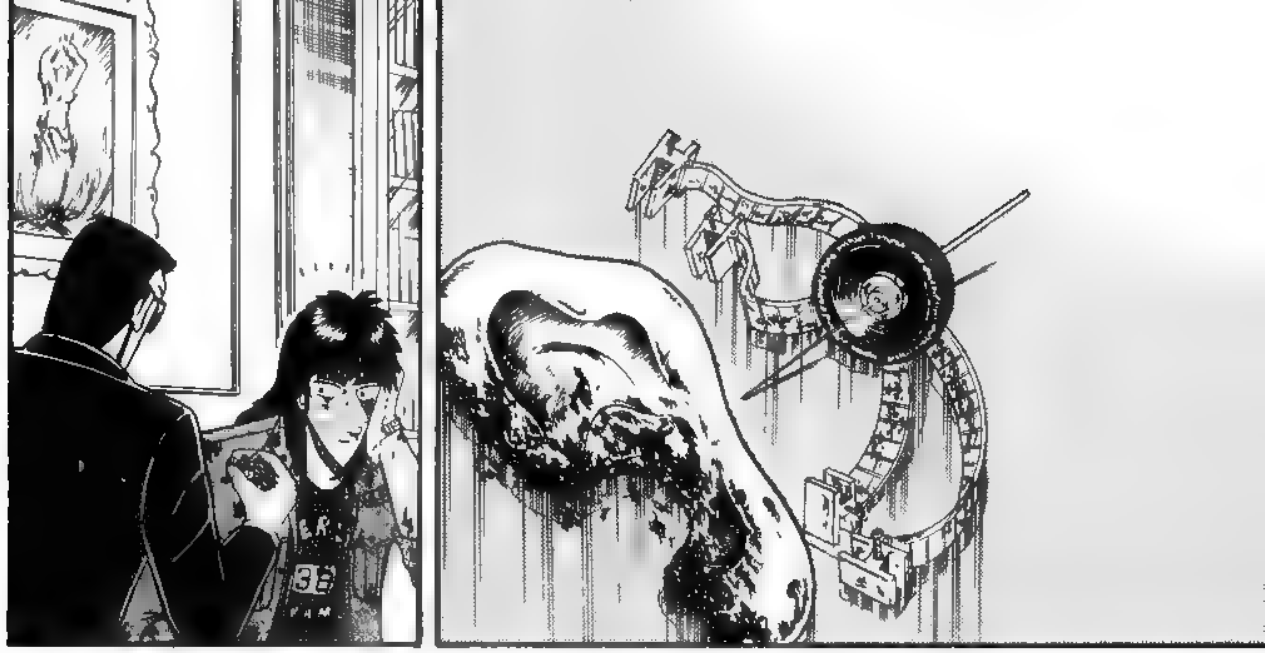

Hehehe
.....

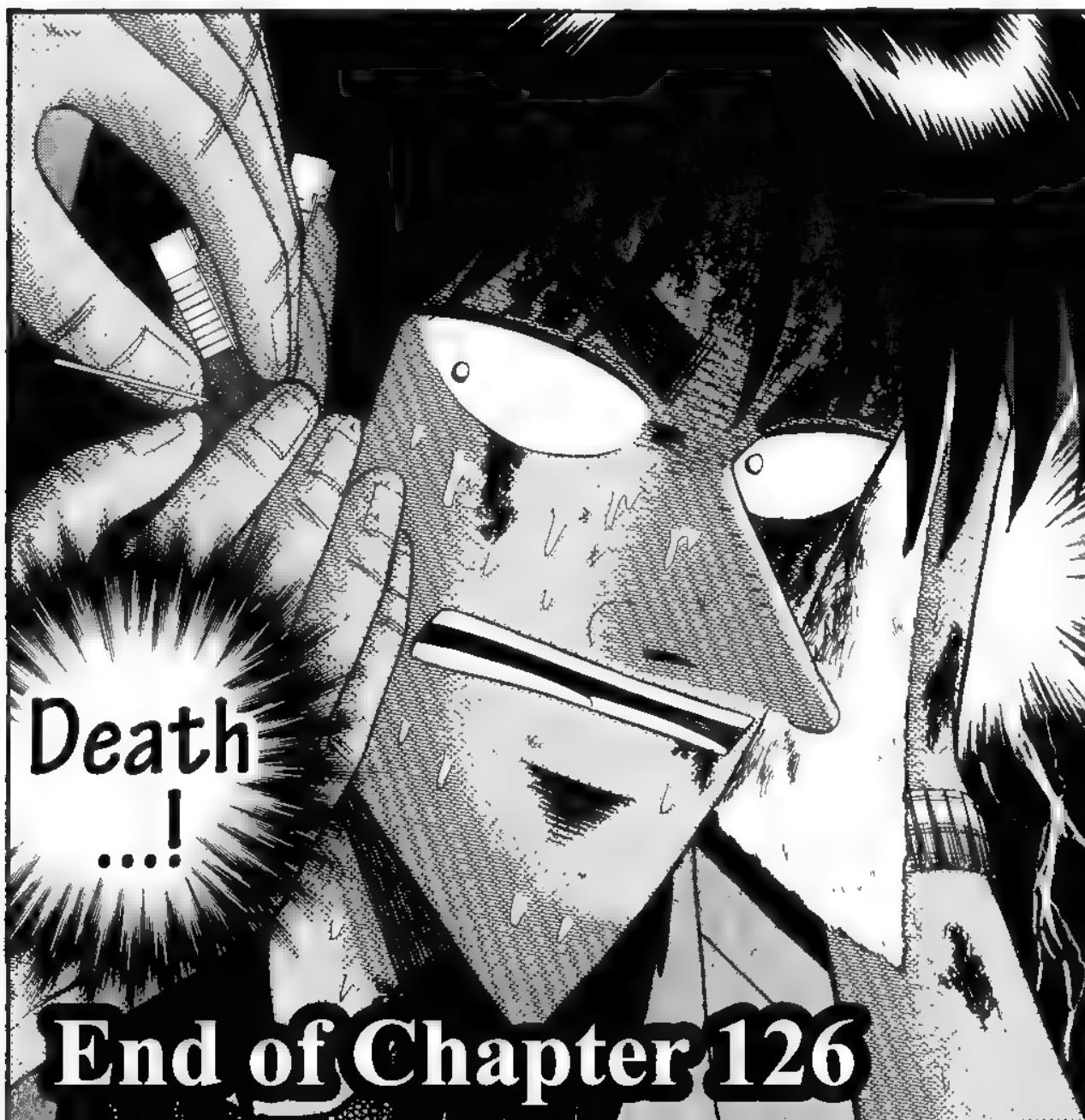
So you see ...

Hmph
STRIDE

Sir ...!

...to the battle!
... and apply yourself ...
...you are free to relax ...
...plus 20 mil. yen to boot!
Win and you shall have your revenge ...
...it will mean your death!
Hehehe ...
However, should you lose...
.....
ER



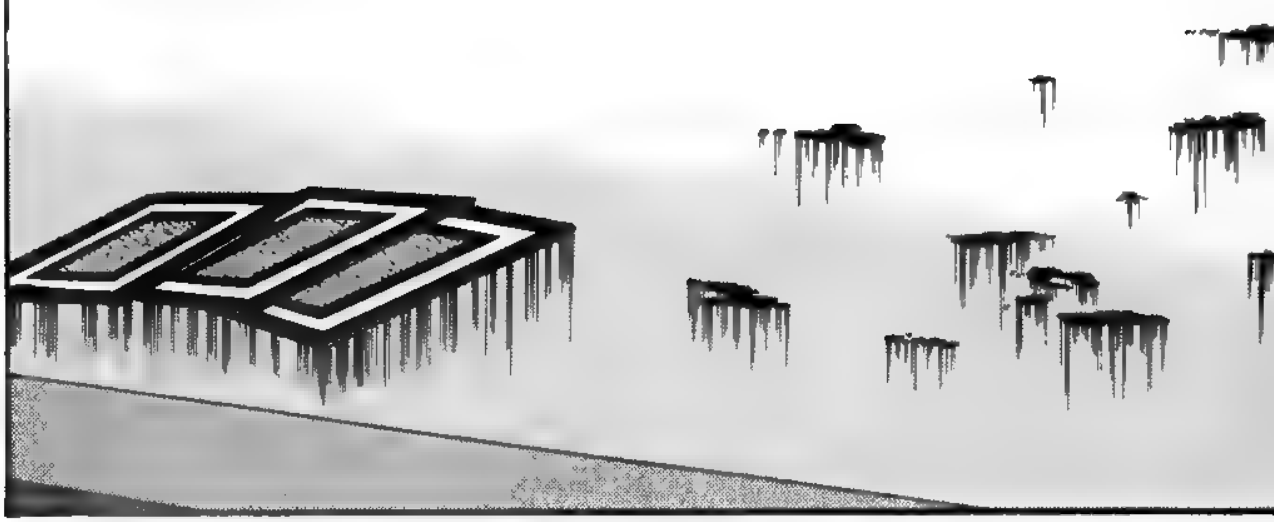


End of Chapter 126

It will mean your death!!!

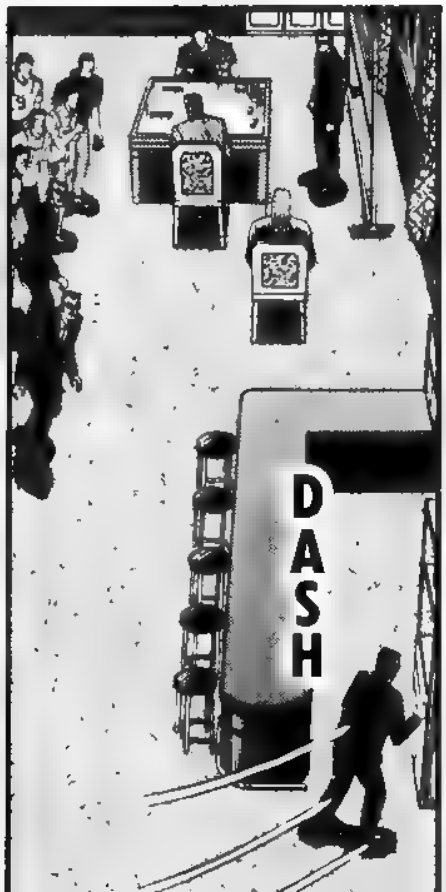
Chapter 127: Blood, Sweat and Tears

With another ...
The needle had already extended 27mm.
ざわ...
But winning would mean 9 mil. yen ...!
Slave
18 18
27
...losing would mean death!
Emperor
Slave
... 18mm on the line...
...was ready to begin!
The final match of Emperor ...



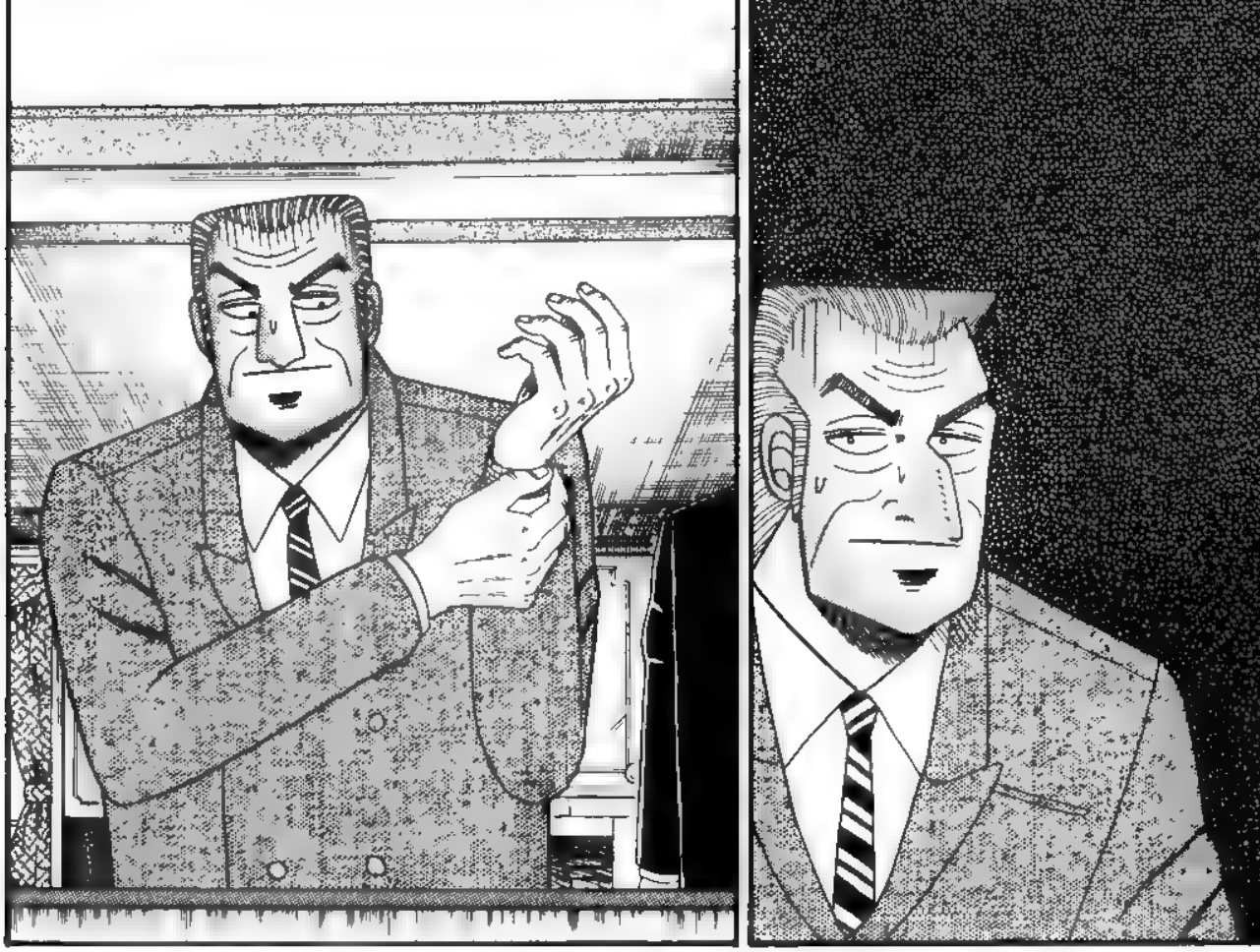
Oi
...!

.....

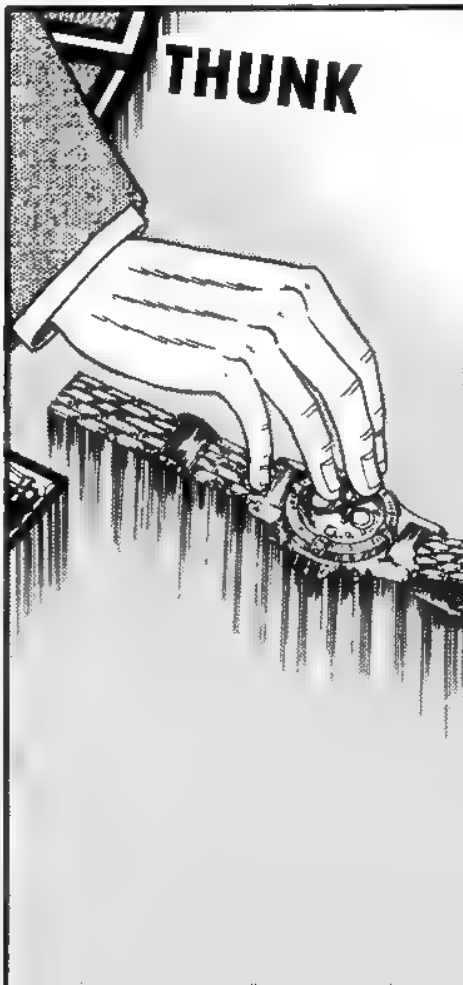

DASH

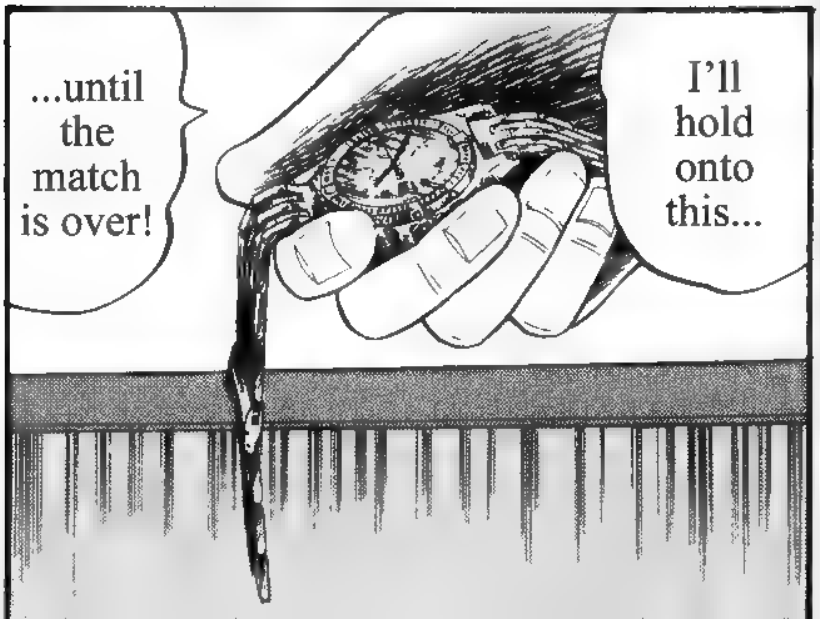
It's covered with blood ...
Bring me something to wipe this down with...
Yes sir ...!

SCRUB
Anything's fine ...
All I could find was paper towels ...
SCRUB SCRUB
Take off your watch ...!

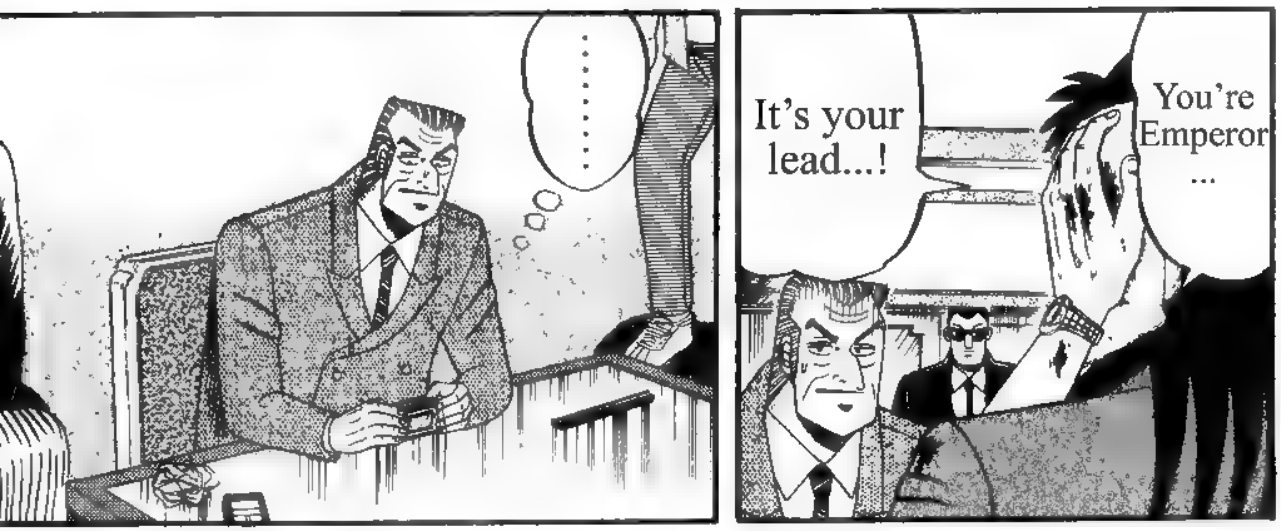


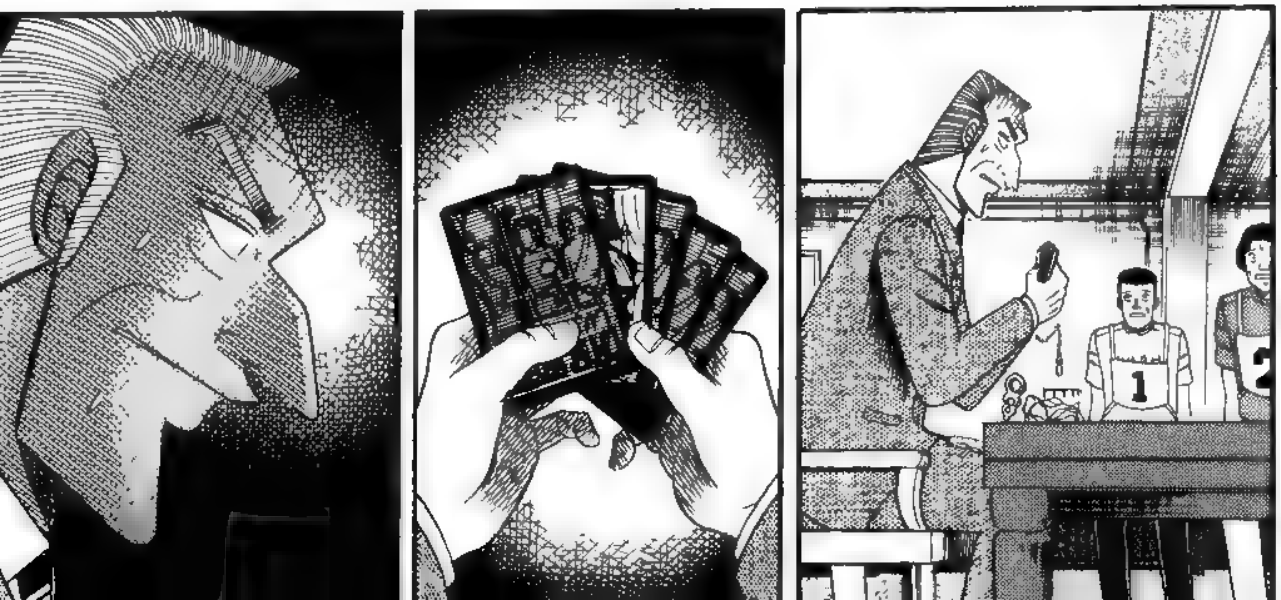
.....


THUNK


...until the match is over!
I'll hold onto this...

Alright, let's begin...!
.....


.....
It's your lead...!
You're Emperor ...

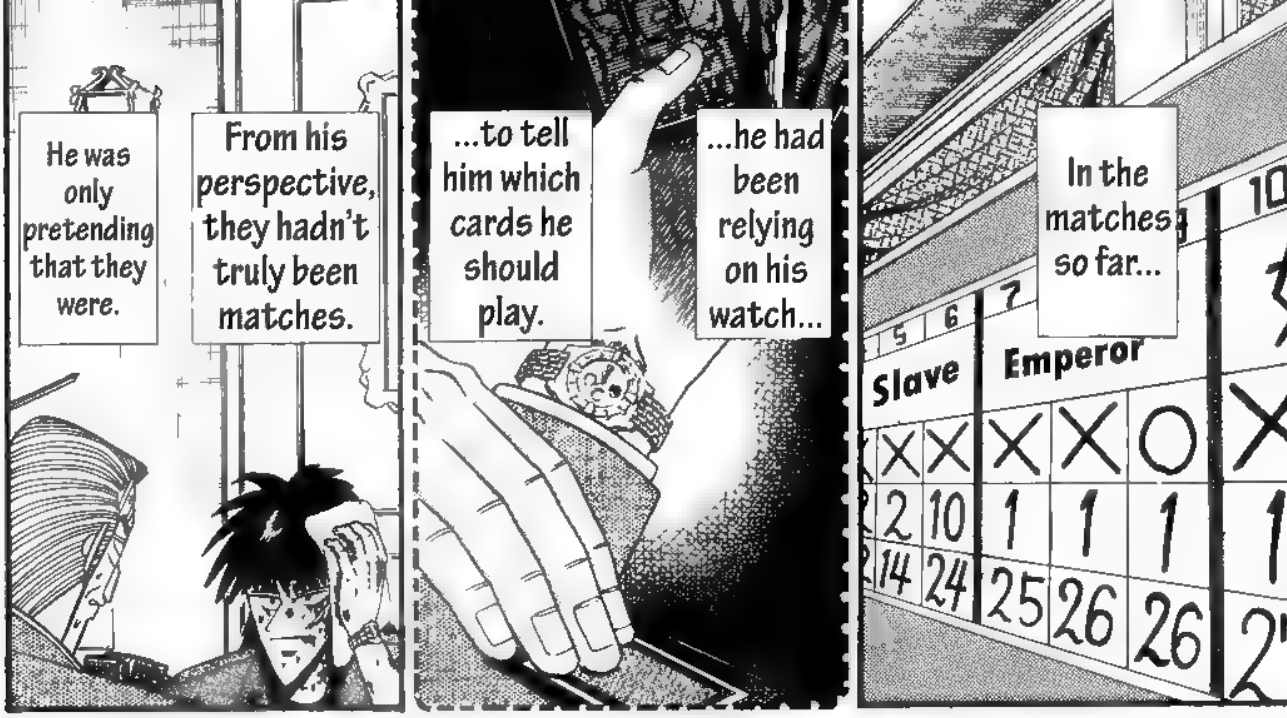

1

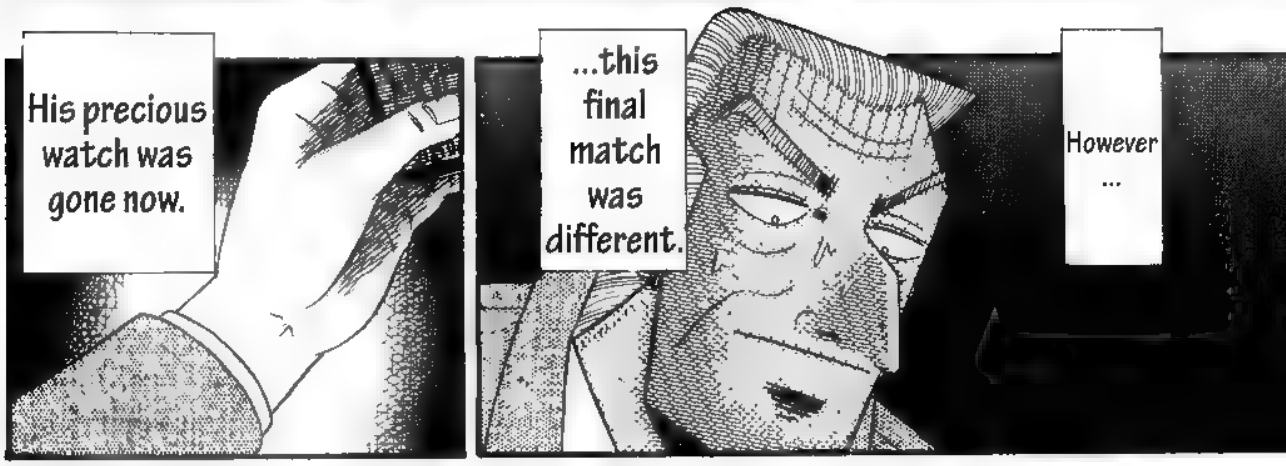
In truth ...

...this match was the first...
.....

...in their game of Emperor...

...in which Tonegawa's playing was in earnest!


He was only pretending that they were.
From his perspective, they hadn't truly been matches.
...to tell him which cards he should play.
...he had been relying on his watch...
In the matches so far...
5
6
7
Slave
Emperor
2
10
1
1
1
14
24
25
26
26

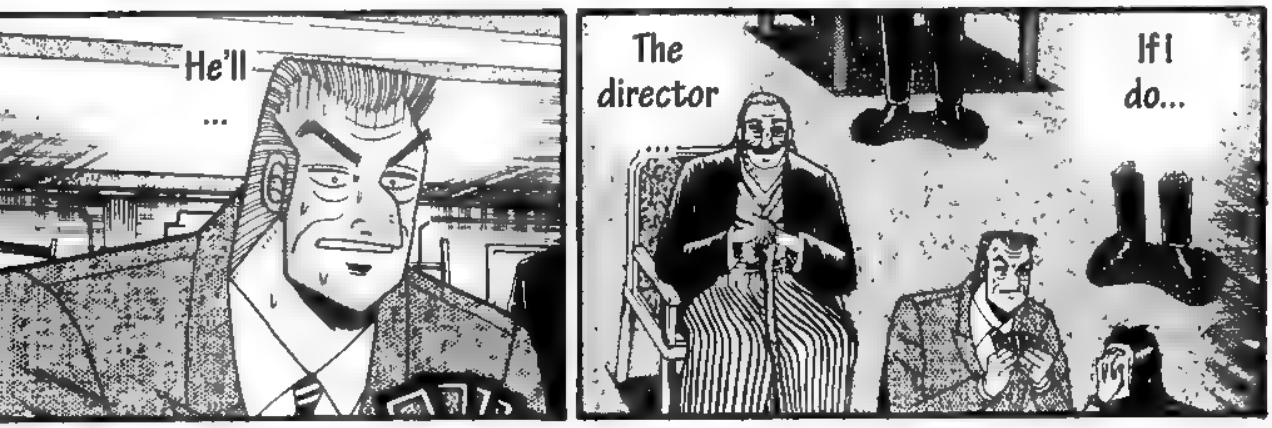

His precious watch was gone now.
...this final match was different.
However ...

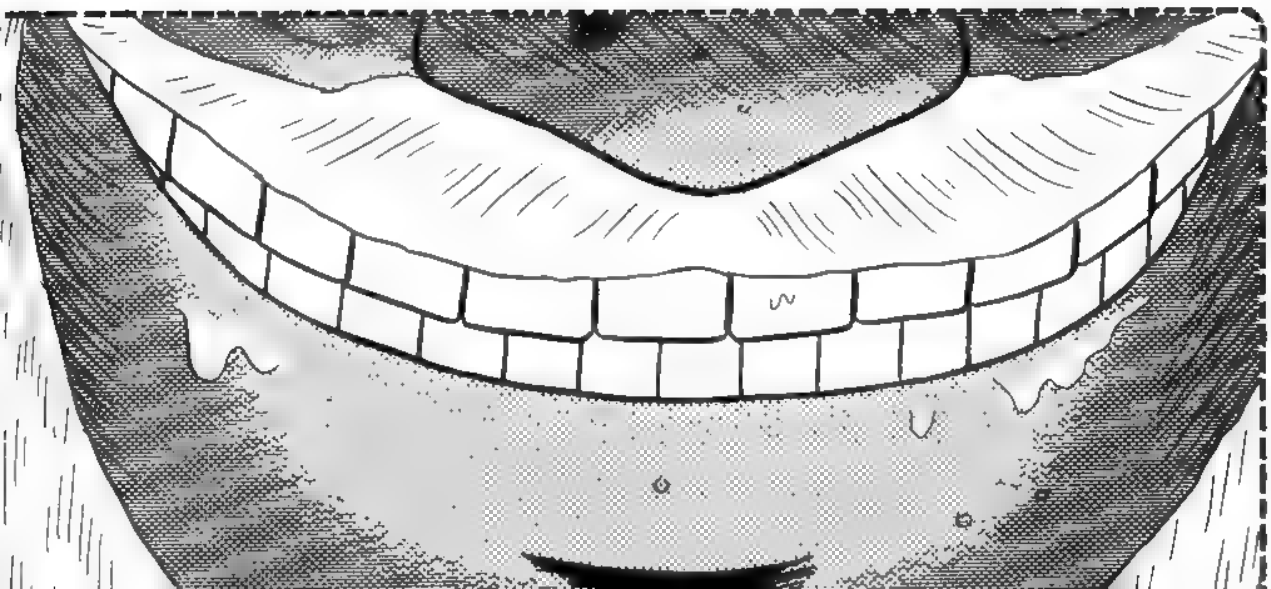
...this time the match was in earnest!
Make no bones about it...
...in order to ensure victory.
He would have to rely on his own perception, instinct and luck...
There was no more guarantee of victory ...!

...the odds were still overwhelmingly in his favor.
...since Tonegawa was playing on the Emperor's side...
Under normal circumstances, it would be unlikely that he lost...
... nonetheless ...
However ...
...the offense would be unforgiveable.
...if he did lose...
But on the other hand ...
Highly unlikely ...
... unforgiveable!
Highly ...
.....

And no one was more aware of that fact than Tonegawa was...!

No one ...!
I can't lose...!


He'll ...
The director ...
If I do...



I have to win ...!

I just can't lose ...!

...plenty of troubles, I've been in... Throughout my life, I've faced...

...more than one predicament ...

My only one ...!

It's my only choice ...!

I have to...!

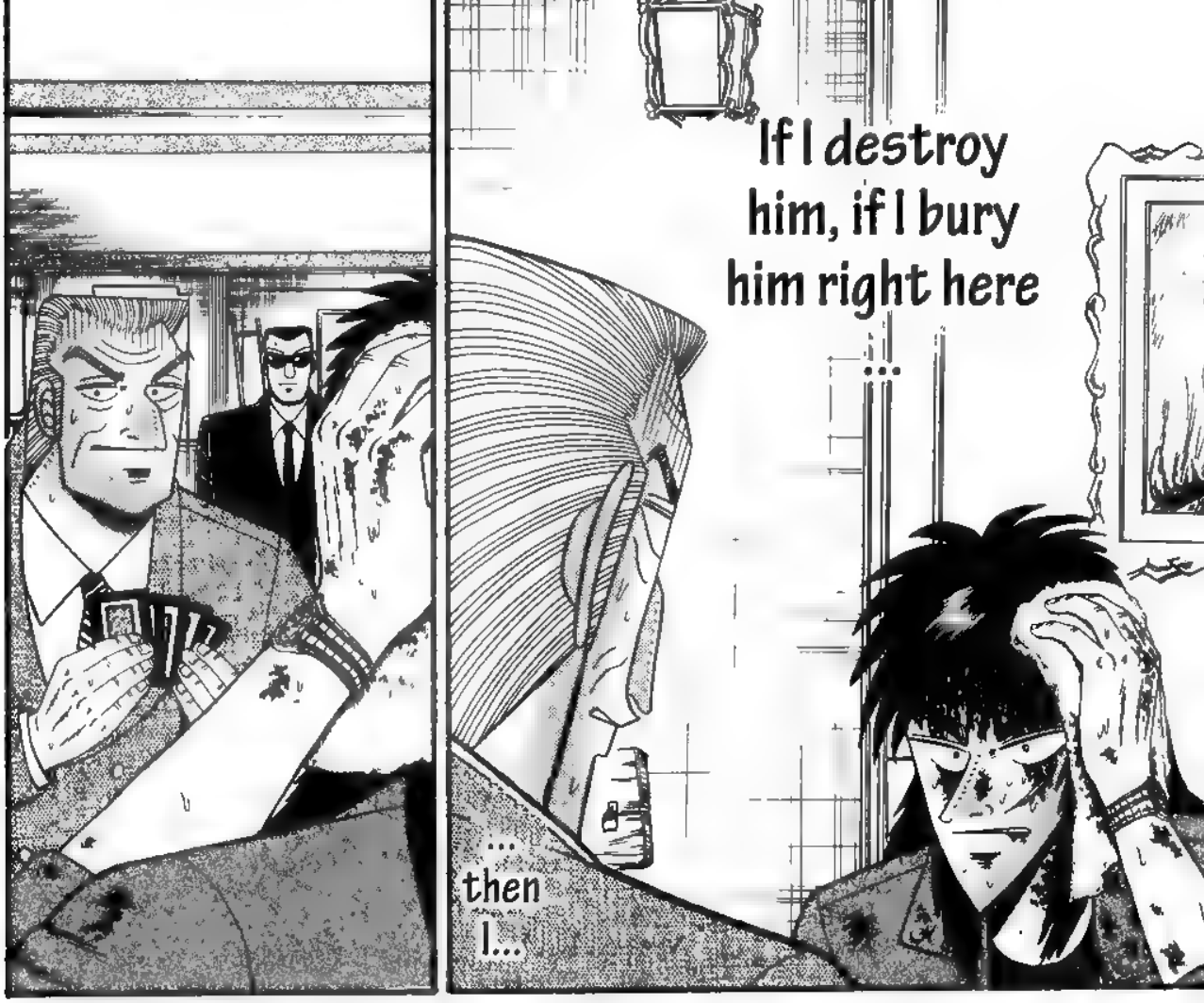
It's time ... to win ...!

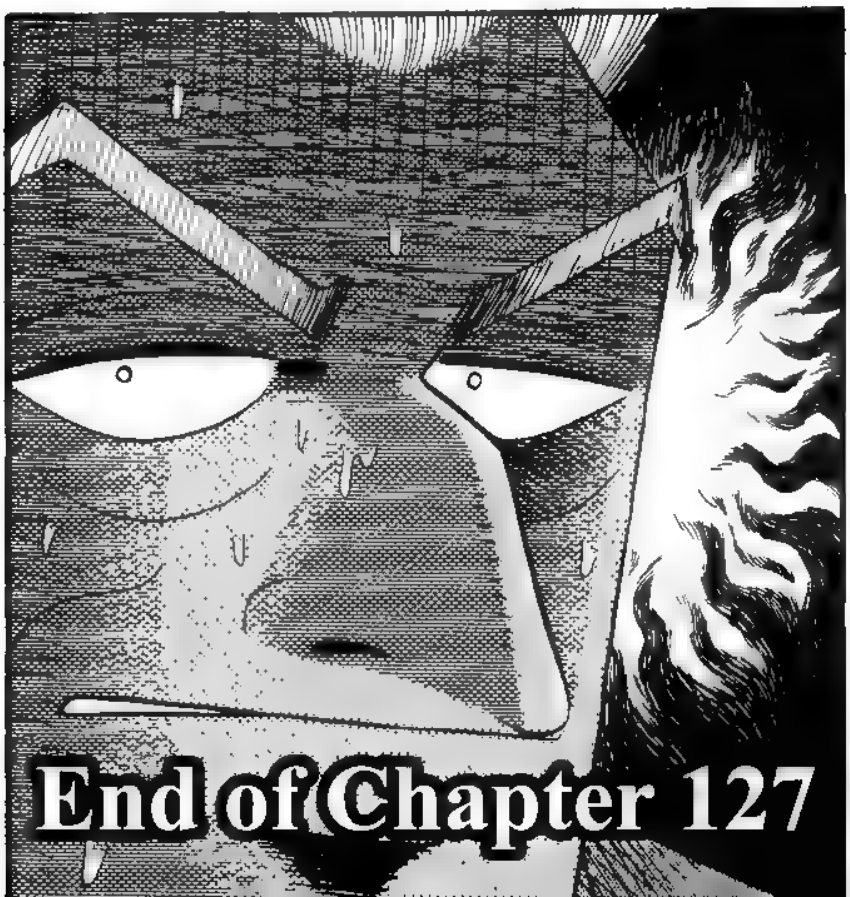
If I win ...
...then everything will be alright!
It's time now...
...some of the director's trust.
I can win back...
...it will make up for my blunder in the 11th match.
If I win now...
Emperor
Slave
1
1
1
18
26

...against this brat ...

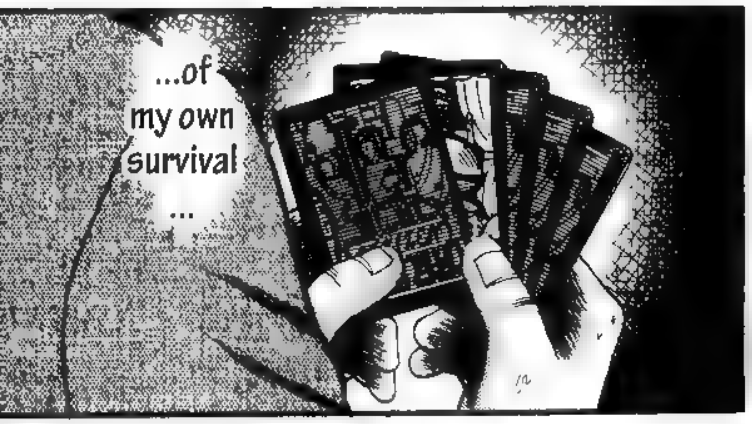
I have to win ...

I have to destroy him...!



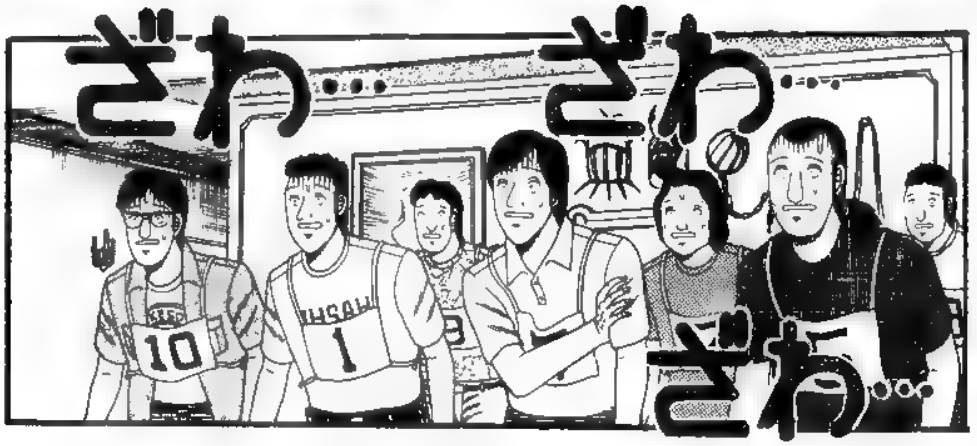


...will be the one to survive!

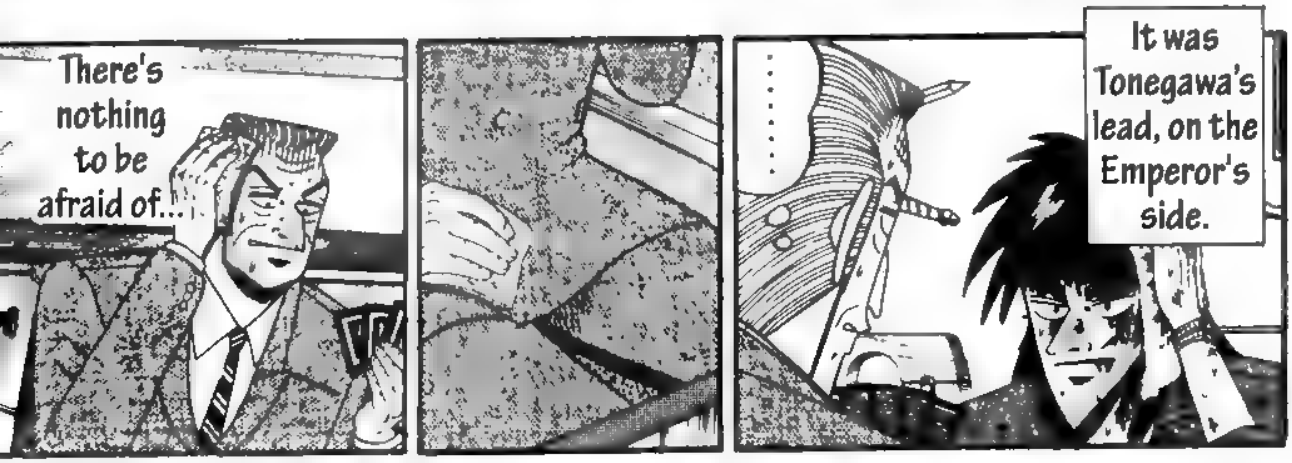


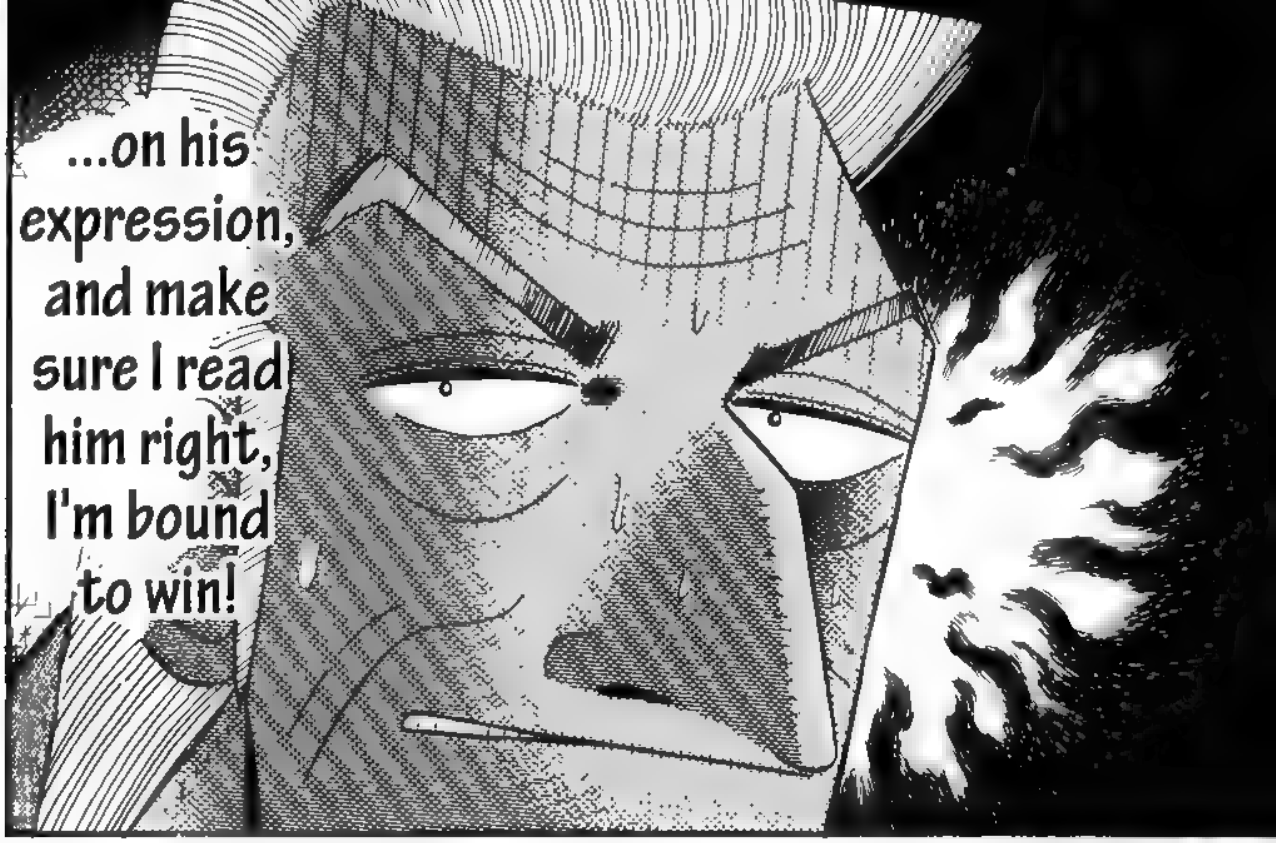
...I
have
to
win!

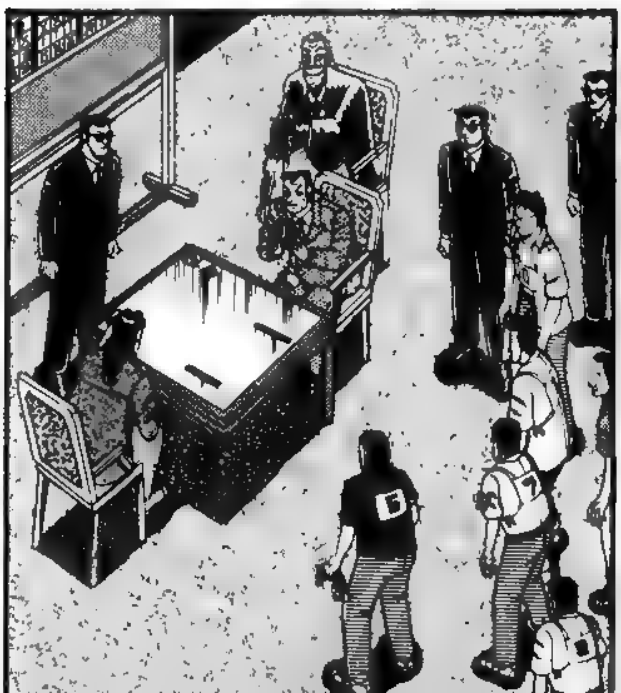
I have to survive!!!



Chapter 128: Trials and Tribulations





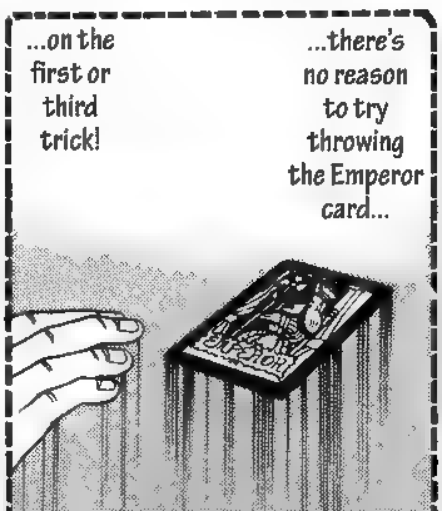


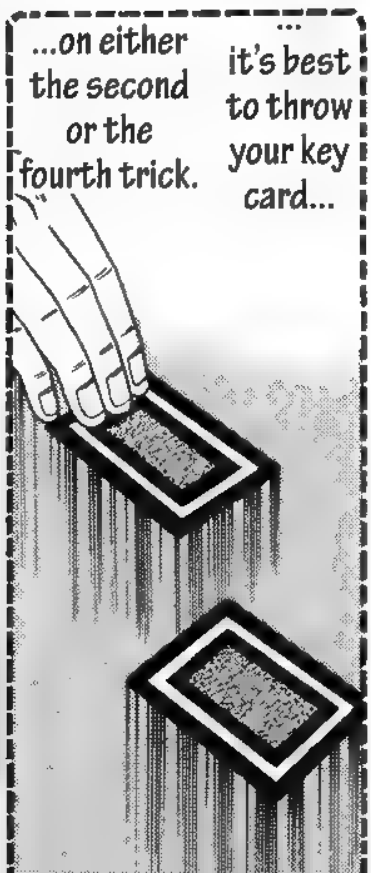
I'm bound to win ...!

Fundamentally, when playing as Emperor...

...gets a chance to read your expression afterwards...
Since your opponent...

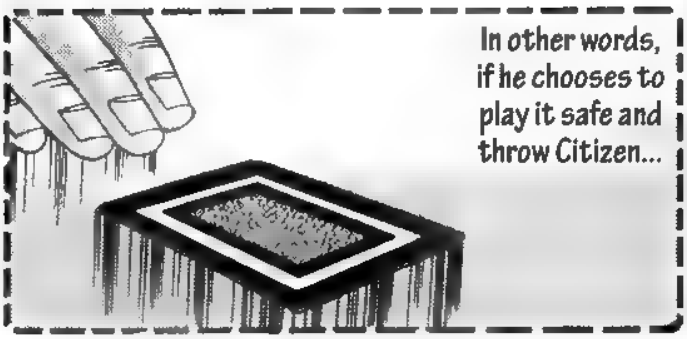
That's just common sense...
1

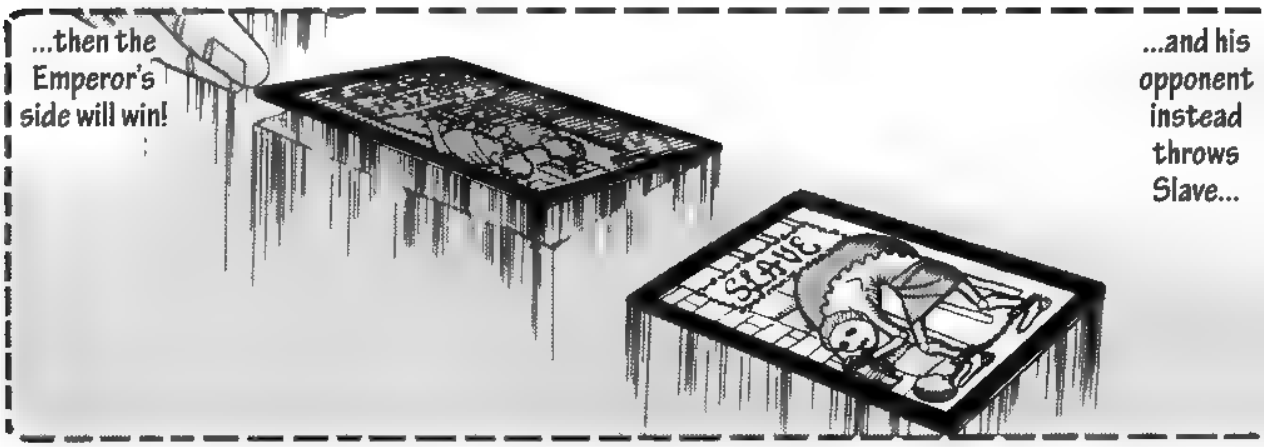

...on the first or third trick!
...there's no reason to try throwing the Emperor card...
EMPEROR

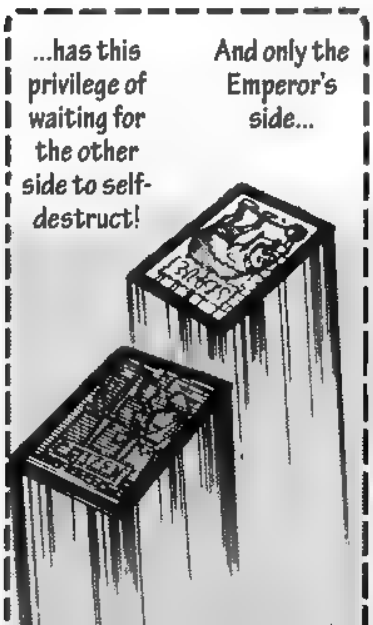

...on either the second or the fourth trick.
...it's best to throw your key card...

...by playing defensively.
Only the Emperor's side can win.

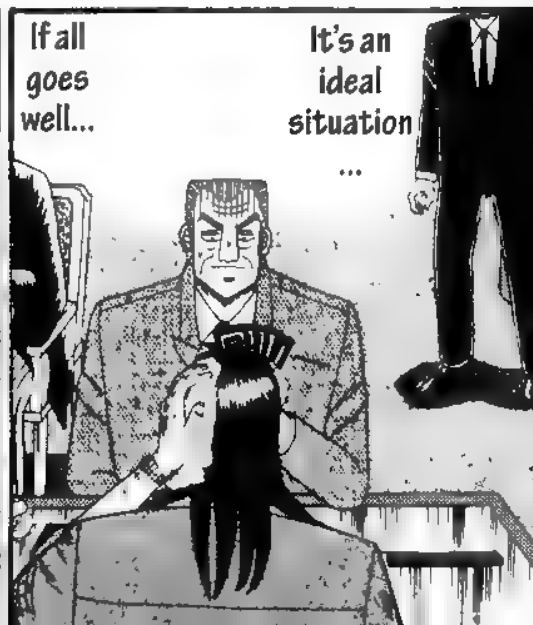
But in addition to this rule...
...the Emperor's side enjoys another privilege.

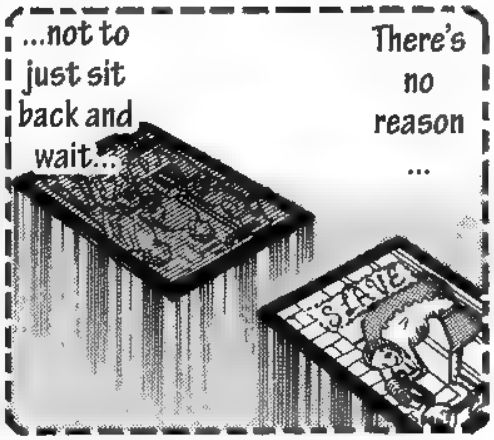

In other words, if he chooses to play it safe and throw Citizen...

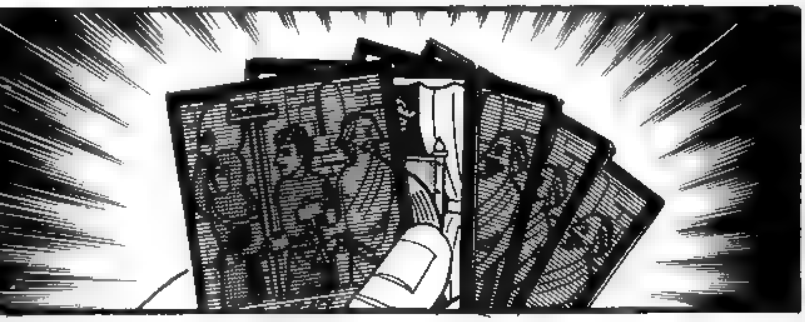

...then the Emperor's side will win!
...and his opponent instead throws Slave...
SLAVE


...has this privilege of waiting for the other side to self-destruct!
And only the Emperor's side...

...you can simply coast to victory!
...without risking a single hair...


If all goes well...
It's an ideal situation ...



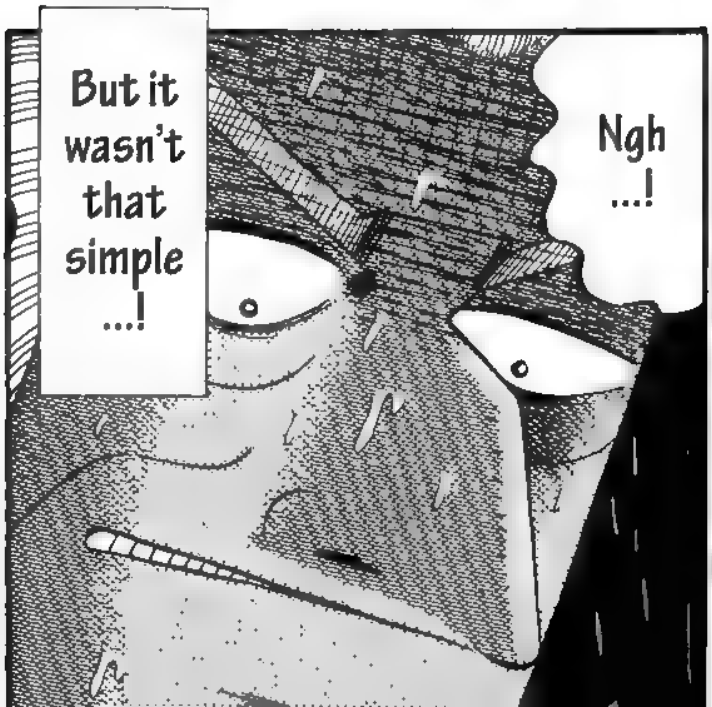


No reason at all ...!

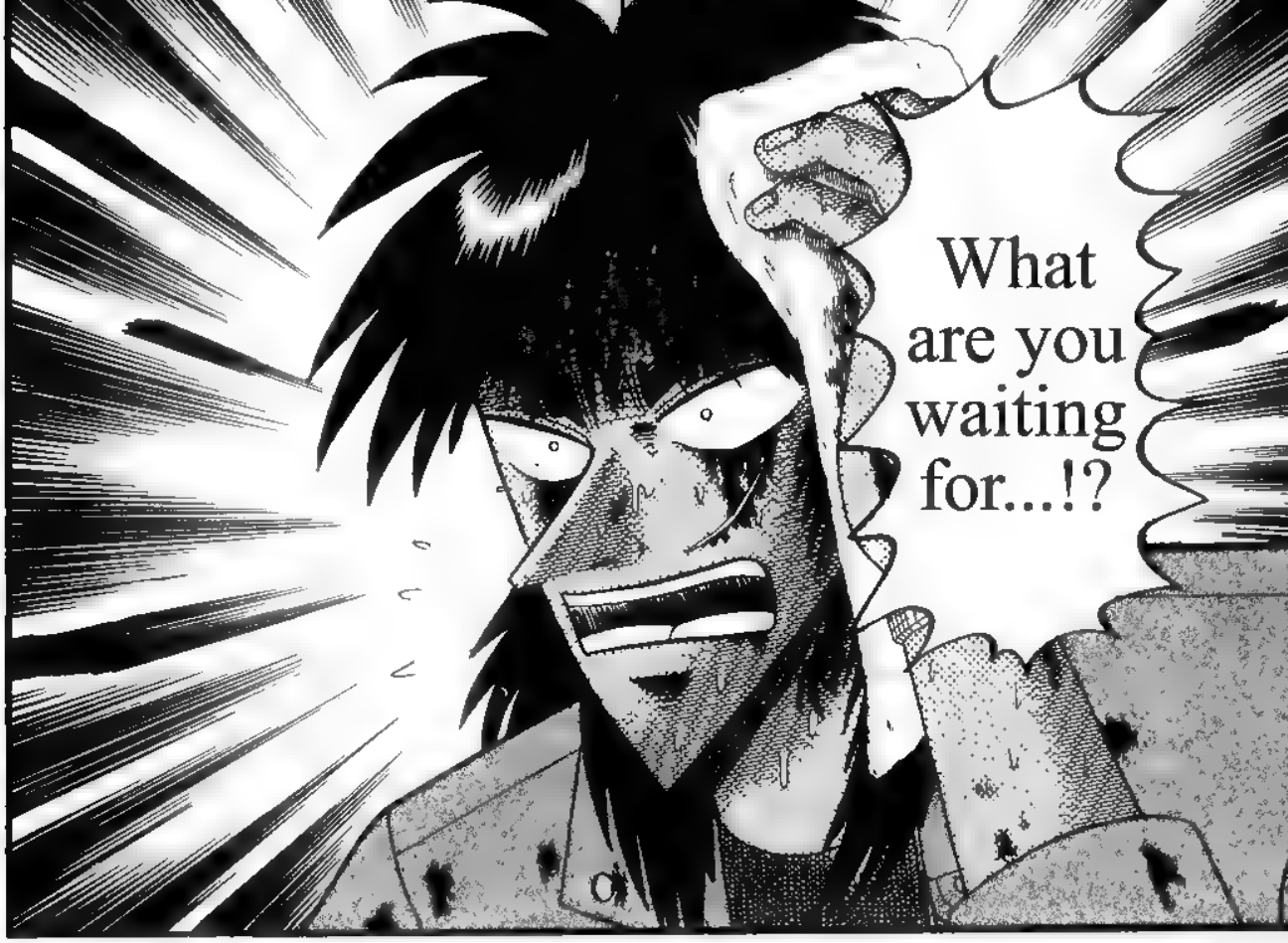
That's precisely why I should throw on the first...!
No... wait...

The first trick ...!
...it'll blindside him.
If I throw now...
I'll be sure to win...!
It will take him completely by surprise ...!
He'll never see it coming in the first trick...!
Now ...
Here ...
On the first trick ...

...this match will be in the bag!
If I throw Emperor now...
CITIZEN
EROR


But it wasn't that simple ...!
Ngh ...!

Emperor
Slave
...but if Kaiji ...
Tonegawa could attempt a sneak attack ...
...was able to read what he was thinking...
...to throw the card!
It wasn't so simple ...
...and throw out the Slave card...
...he might play accordingly ...
.....
Ngh ...!
...in the very first match!


What are you waiting for...!?

...that that old geezer standing behind you...
...of cowardice like this ...

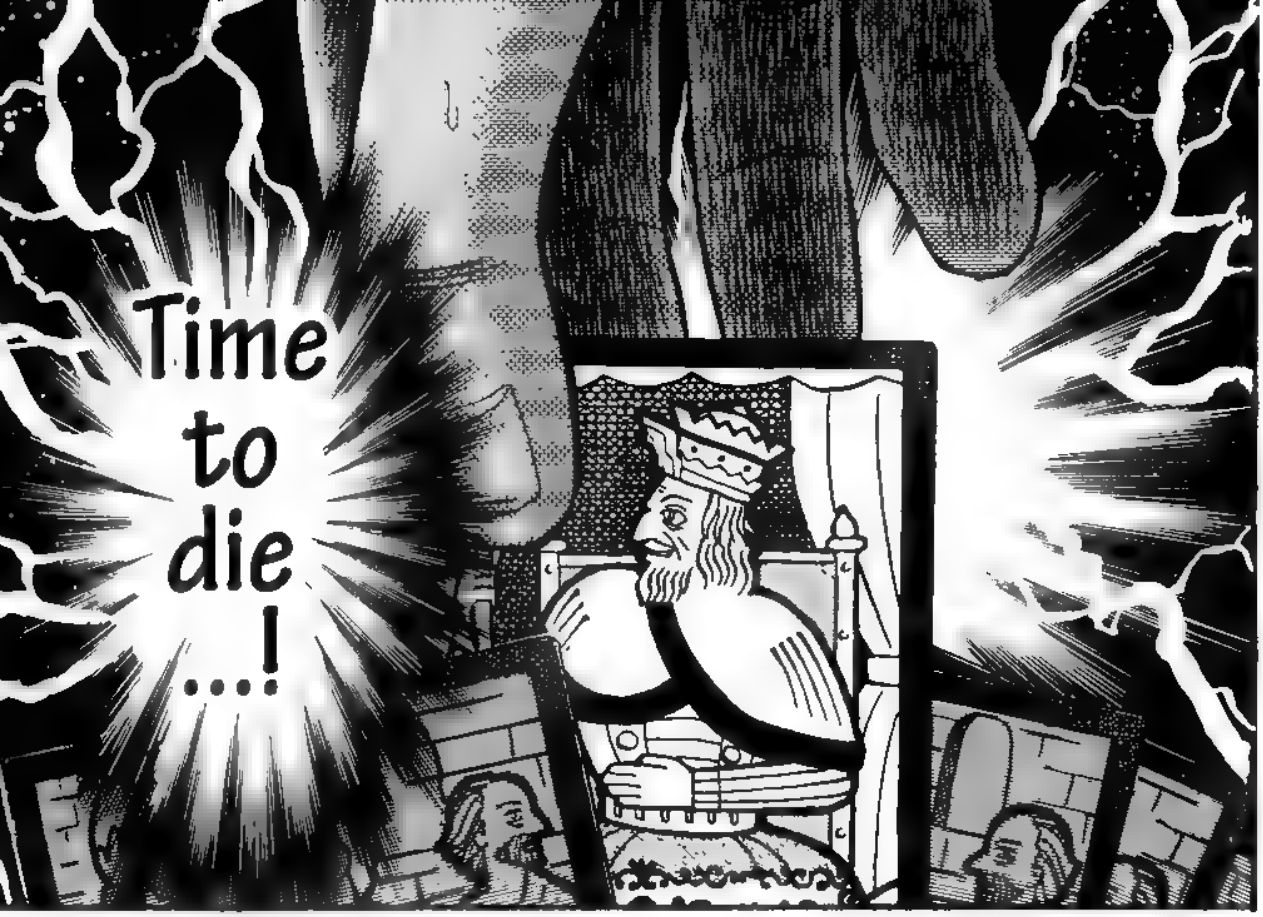
... has lost faith in you!

.....
How long do you plan to take...!?
It's because ...

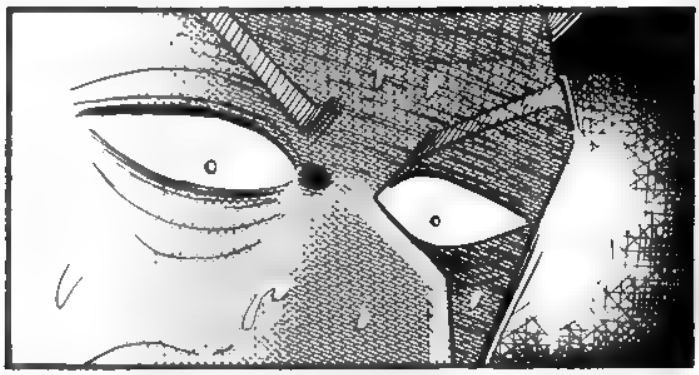
This is why he says you're only good for taking orders...!

Heehehe
Ngh ...!

...to destroy him!
I'm going ...
I...



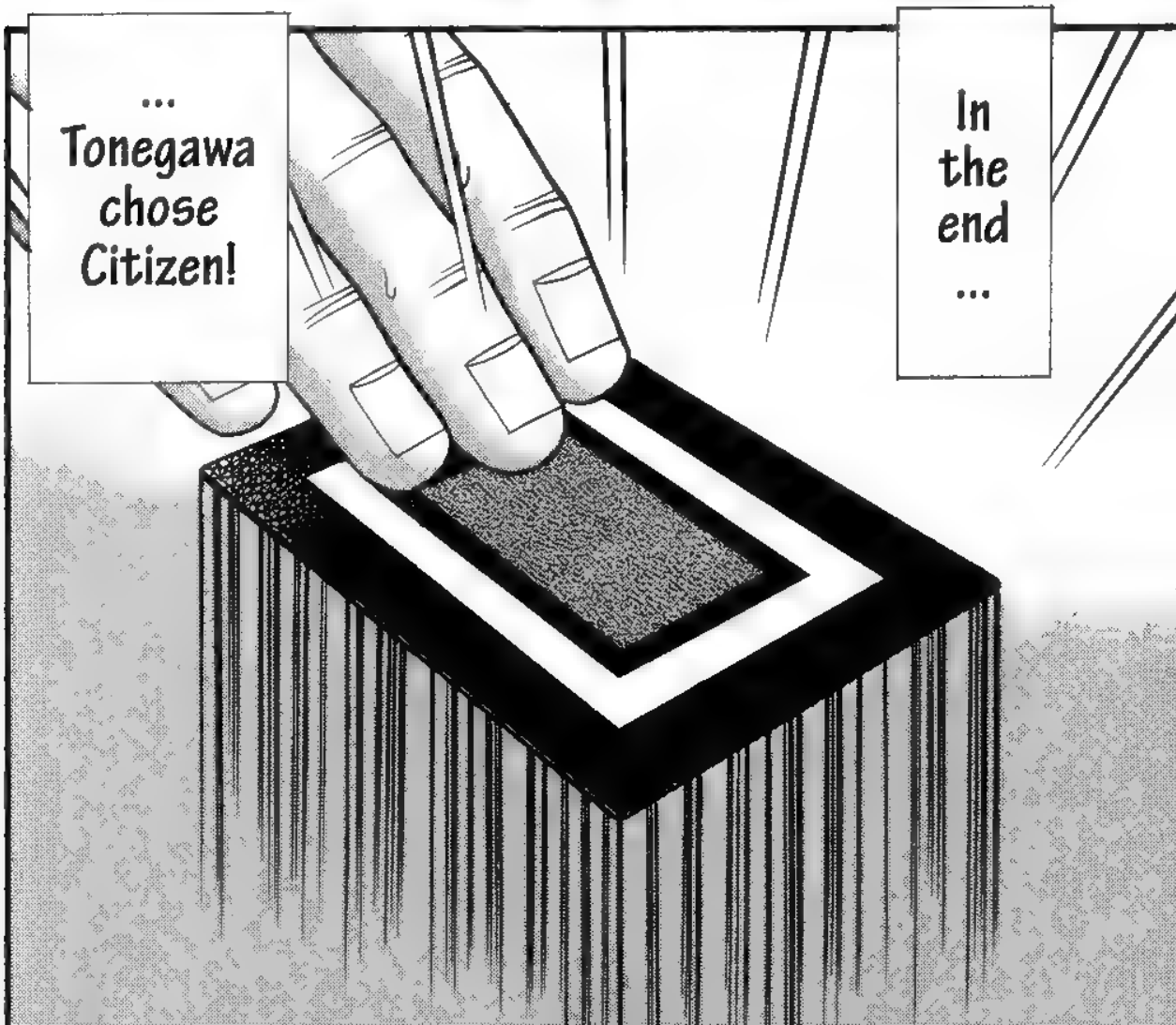
No ...



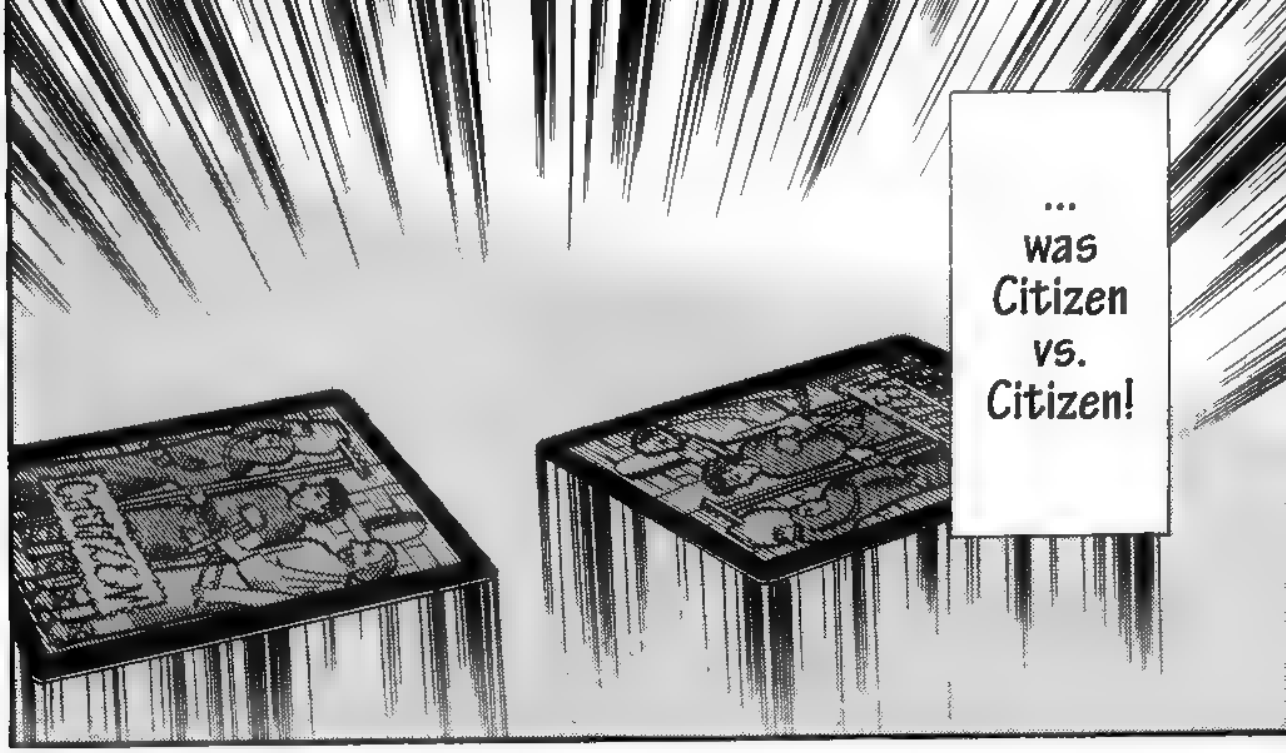
...I could wind up in hot water!

If I get worked up...
...and forget myself like that...

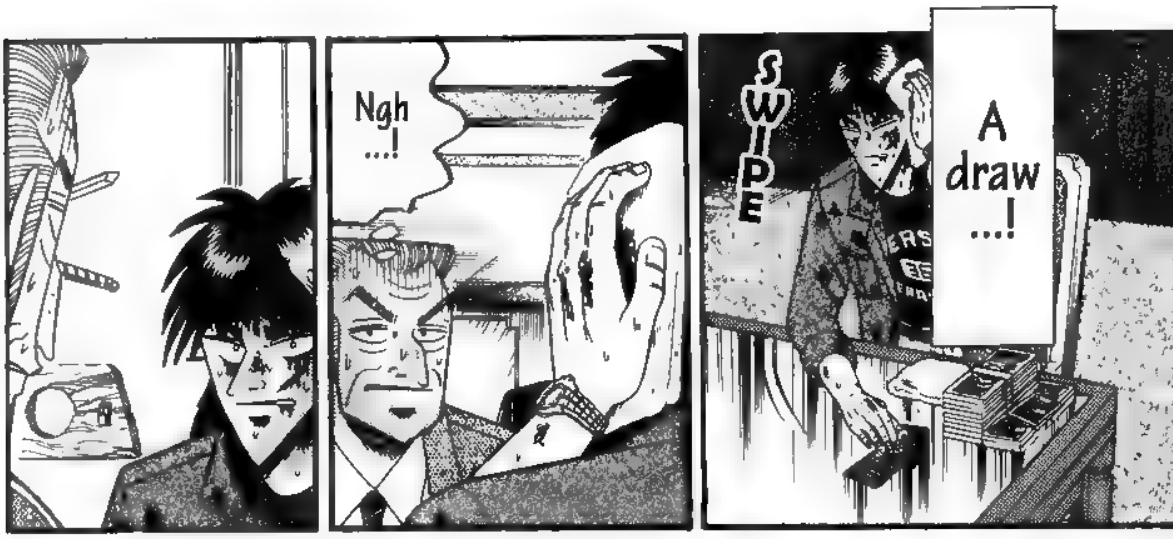
Ngh ...!


In the end ...
... Tonegawa chose Citizen!

Set ...!
Next up was Kaiji ...!
Play ...!
The result ...



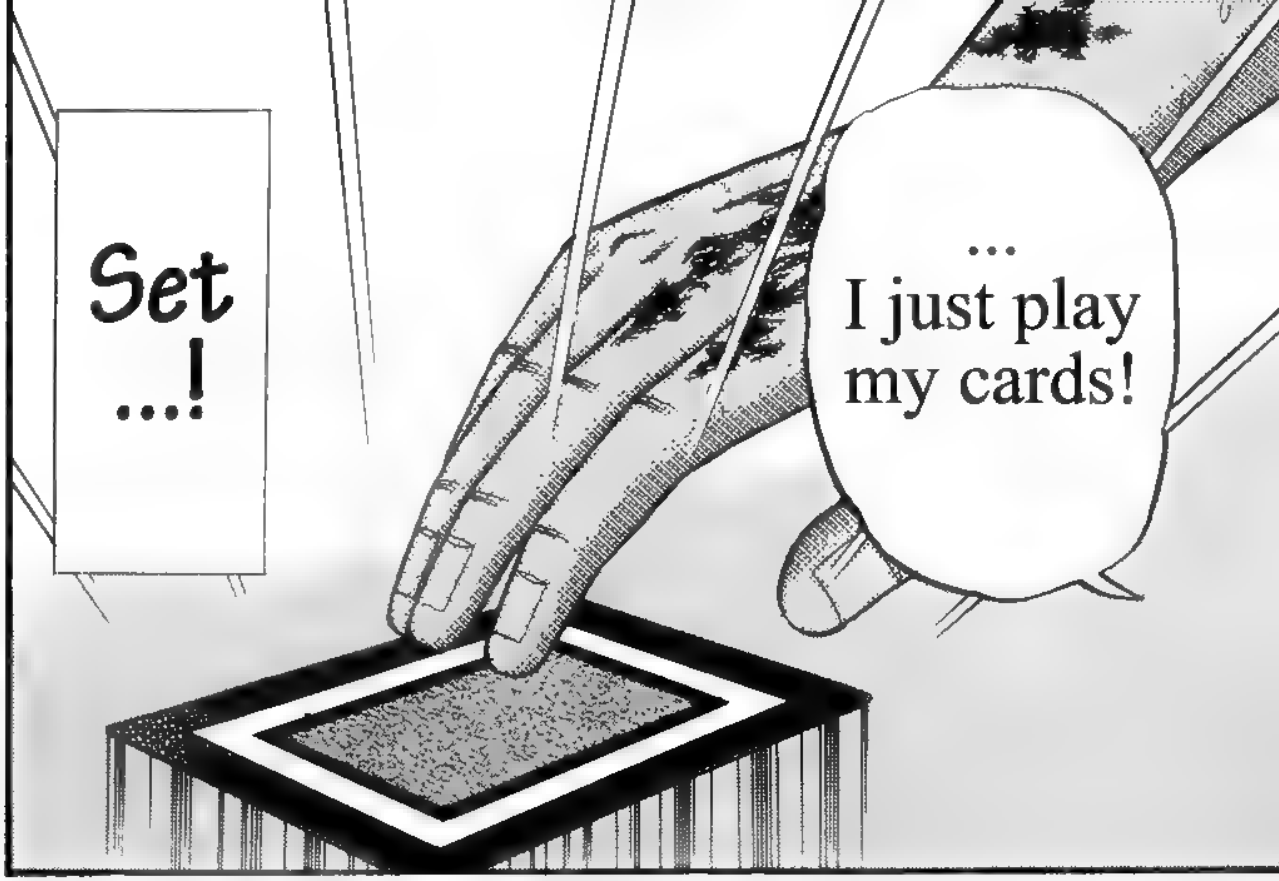
He was closing in...



End of Chapter 128

Chapter 129: Recollections

ざわ..
1
ざわ..ざわ..
You just can't do it...!
I knew it...
.....
Hehehe ...
But as for me ...
... sitting scared ...
You're still on the lookout ...
...you'll wind up second guessing yourself and go with the safe route instead.
As long as you've still got some breathing room...
You couldn't play it, could you ...?
See...!
...couldn't play Emperor in the first trick!
You knew it was in your best interests but you still ...
Hmph ...


Set ...!
... I just play my cards!

Ngh ...!

Ngh ...!
Kaiji threw his second card immediately ...!

That punk ...!

Ngh ...!
.....

... piece of trash!
... scum-sucking ...
Degenerate ...
... rotten ...
That no good ...
... punk!
You punk ...!
He thinks he can talk back to me ...!?
But...
The only reason you talk so big is because you've got nothing to lose ...
What right does a piece of garbage like you have to talk back to me ...!?
... have made something of myself!
I...
I'm not in the same boat as you ...!
... not me!

I've been building myself up...
...for decades!

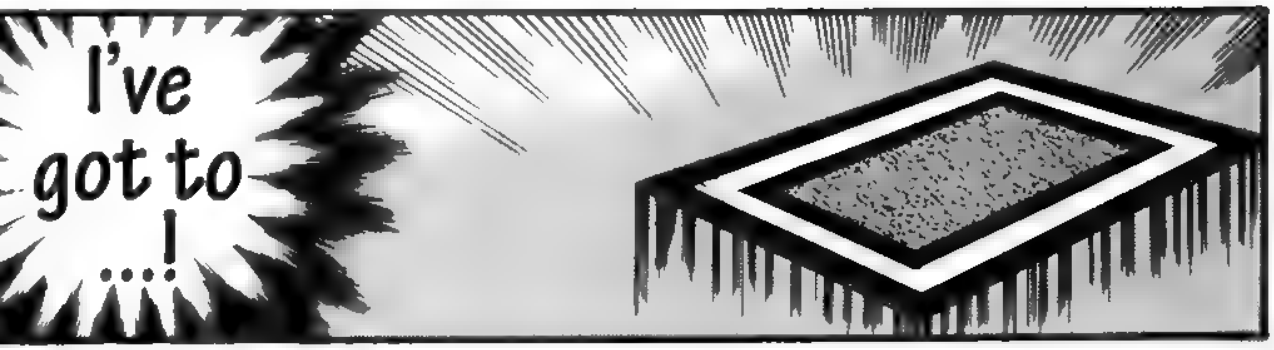
I won't disappear so easy...!
...not a piece of trash like you are!

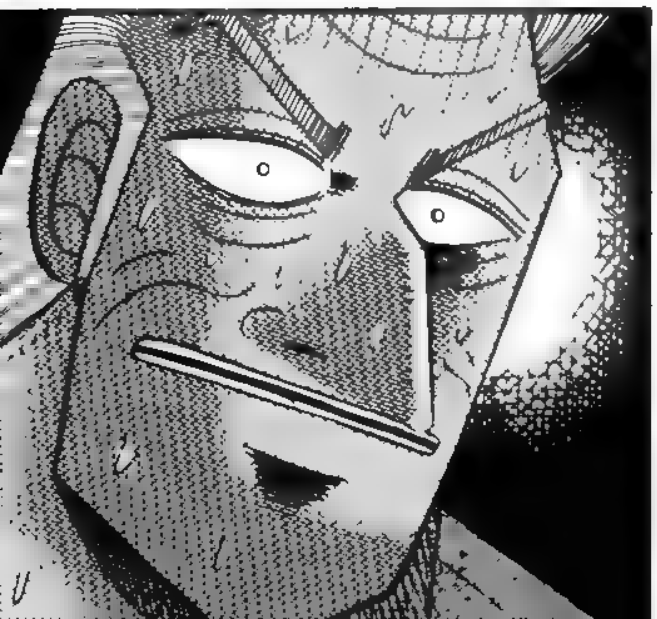
Not me...!
I won't be pushed over the edge...!
I'm...

I won't fall here...!

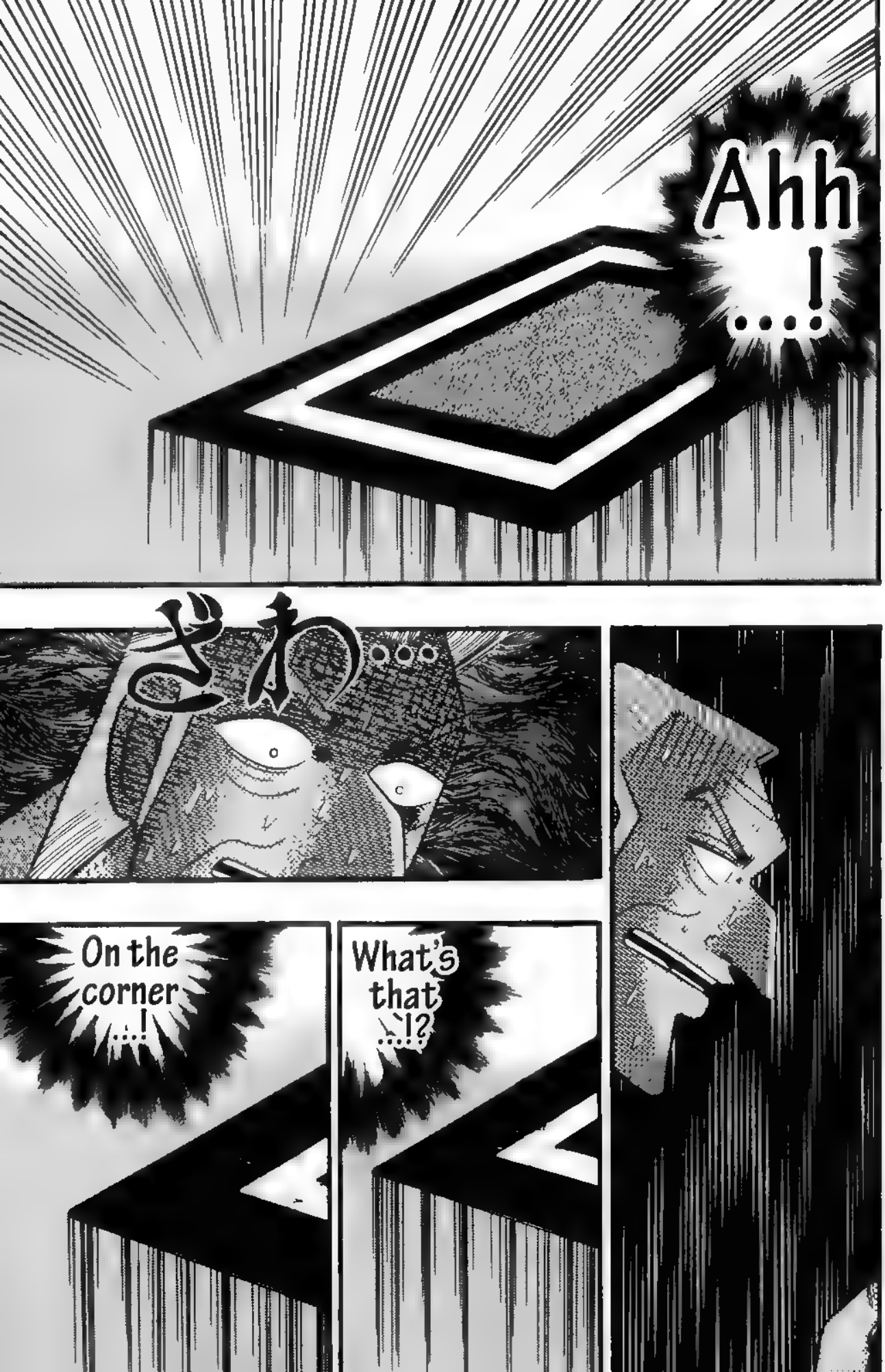
One way or another...
Not here...!

...I've gotta win!

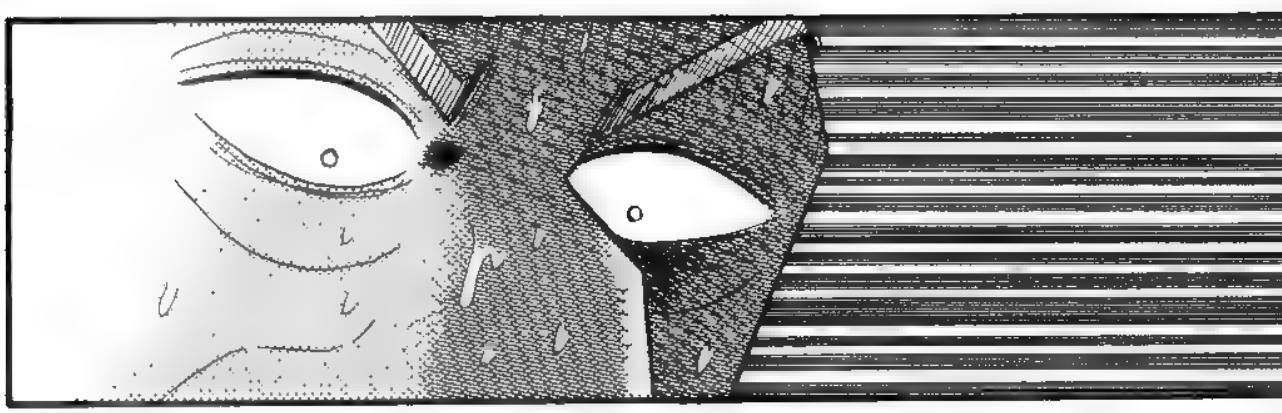

I've got to...!



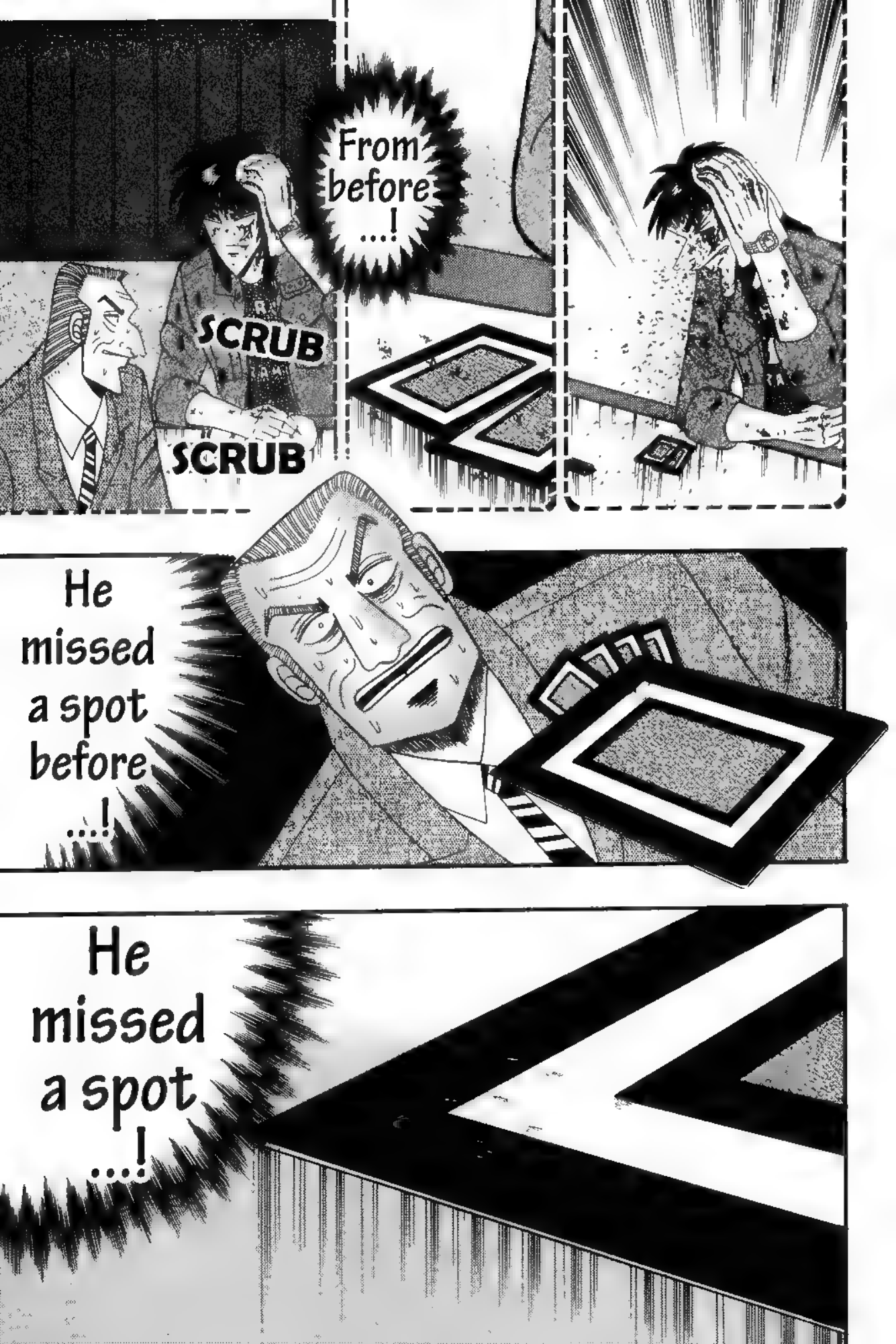
...! I've gotta win


Ahh
!...
ぞわ…
On the corner ...!
What's that ...!?

Is it blood ...!?
That stain on the corner...



That's it...!
Ahh ...!


From before ...!
SCRUB
SCRUB
He missed a spot before ...!
He missed a spot ...!

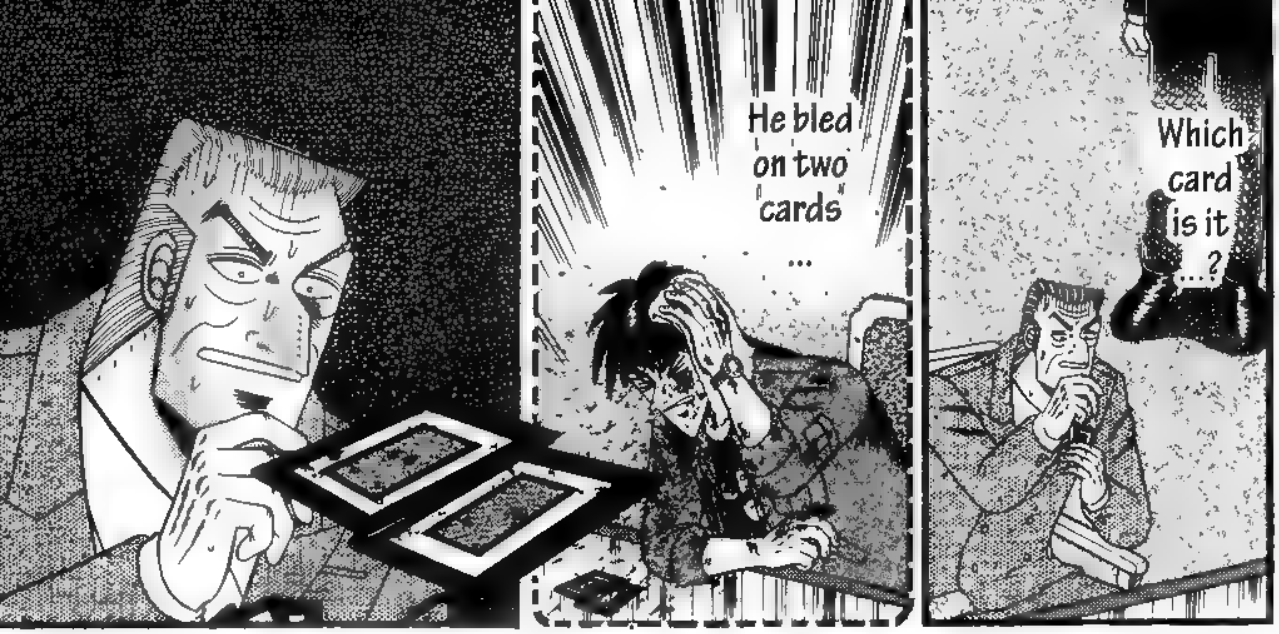
ぎわ・・・

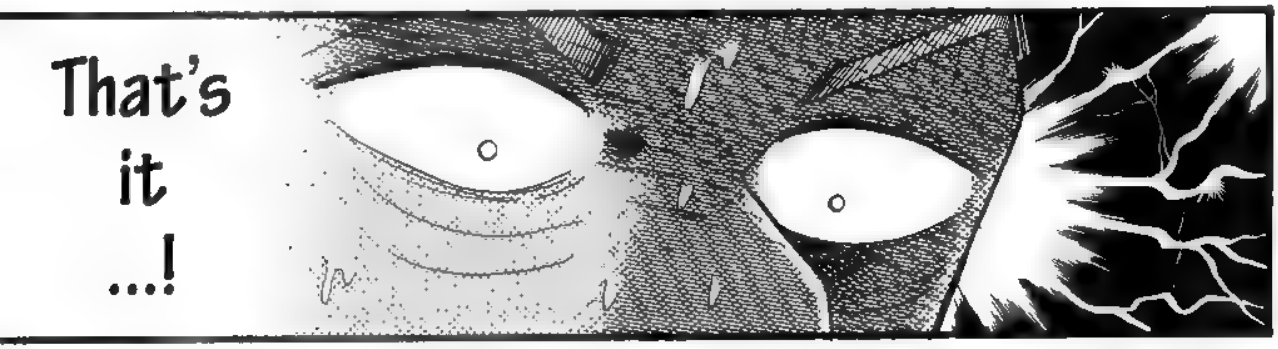
ぎわ・・・
・・・・・・・・

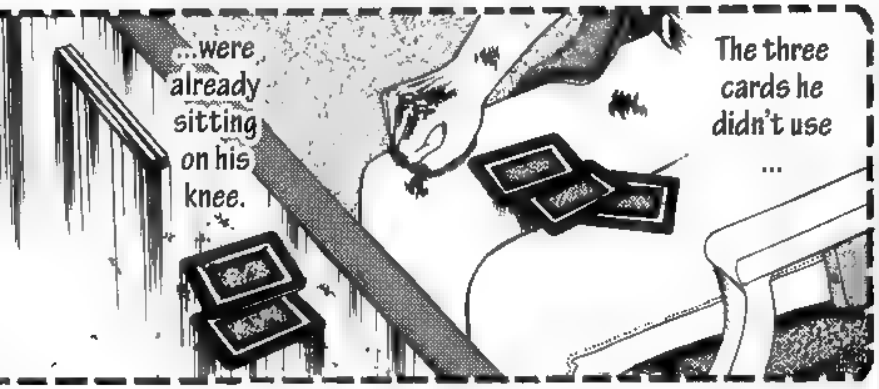
ぎわ・・・
ぎわ・・・

Just hold on ...
Hold on ...
...didn't he?

He missed a spot ...


He bled on two cards ...
Which card is it ...?


That's it ...!


...were already sitting on his knee.
The three cards he didn't use ...

It's the two cards he used in the 11th match ...!

They didn't get bloody ...!
They were off the table ...
In other words ...

...has to be one of the two cards he used in the 11th match! Either...

...that card with the bloodstain ...

Or Slave ...!

SLAVE

...Citizen!

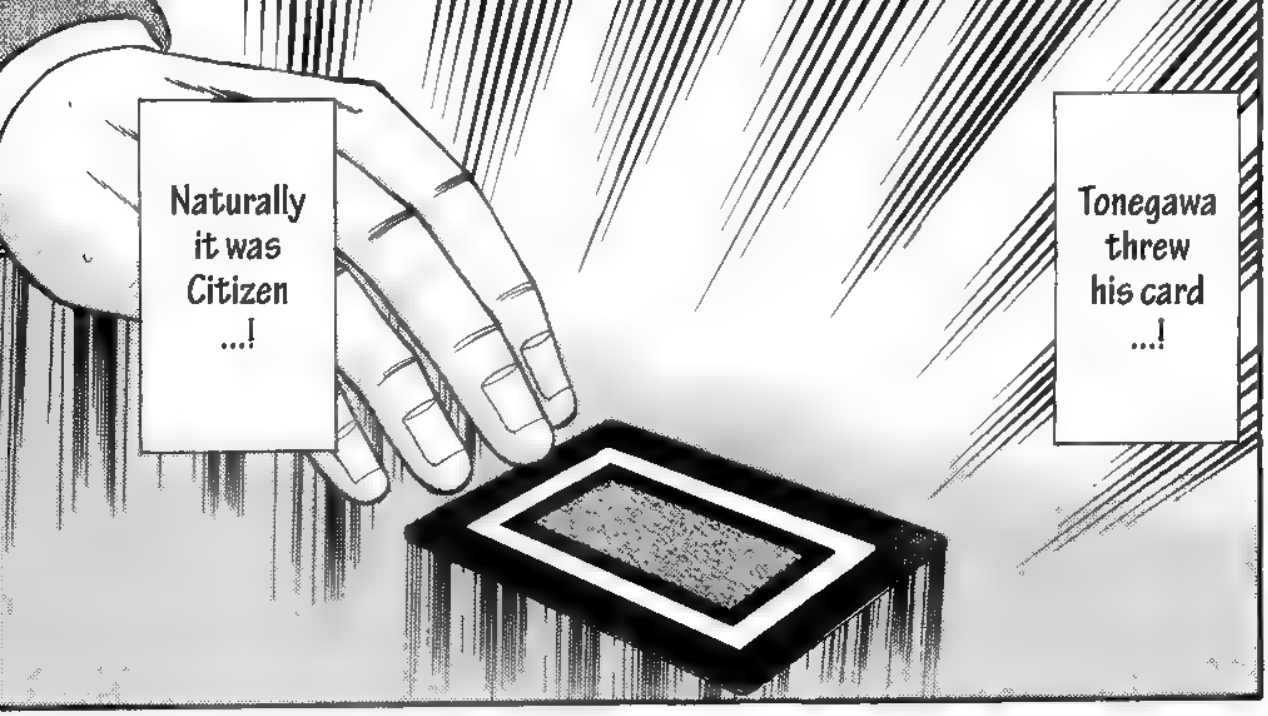
CITIZEN

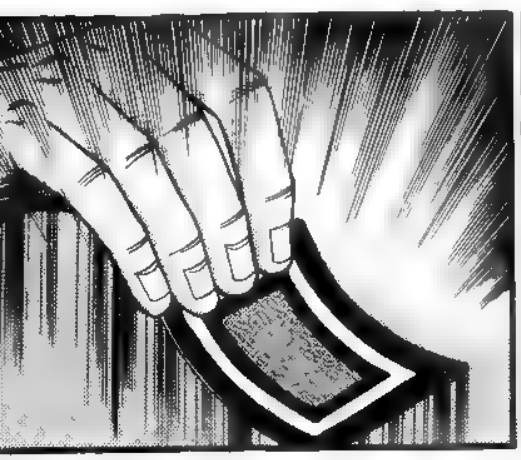
This is it ...!

An opening ...!

This is my chance ...!

There's a 50/50 chance that it's Slave ...!


Naturally it was Citizen ...!
Tonegawa threw his card ...!

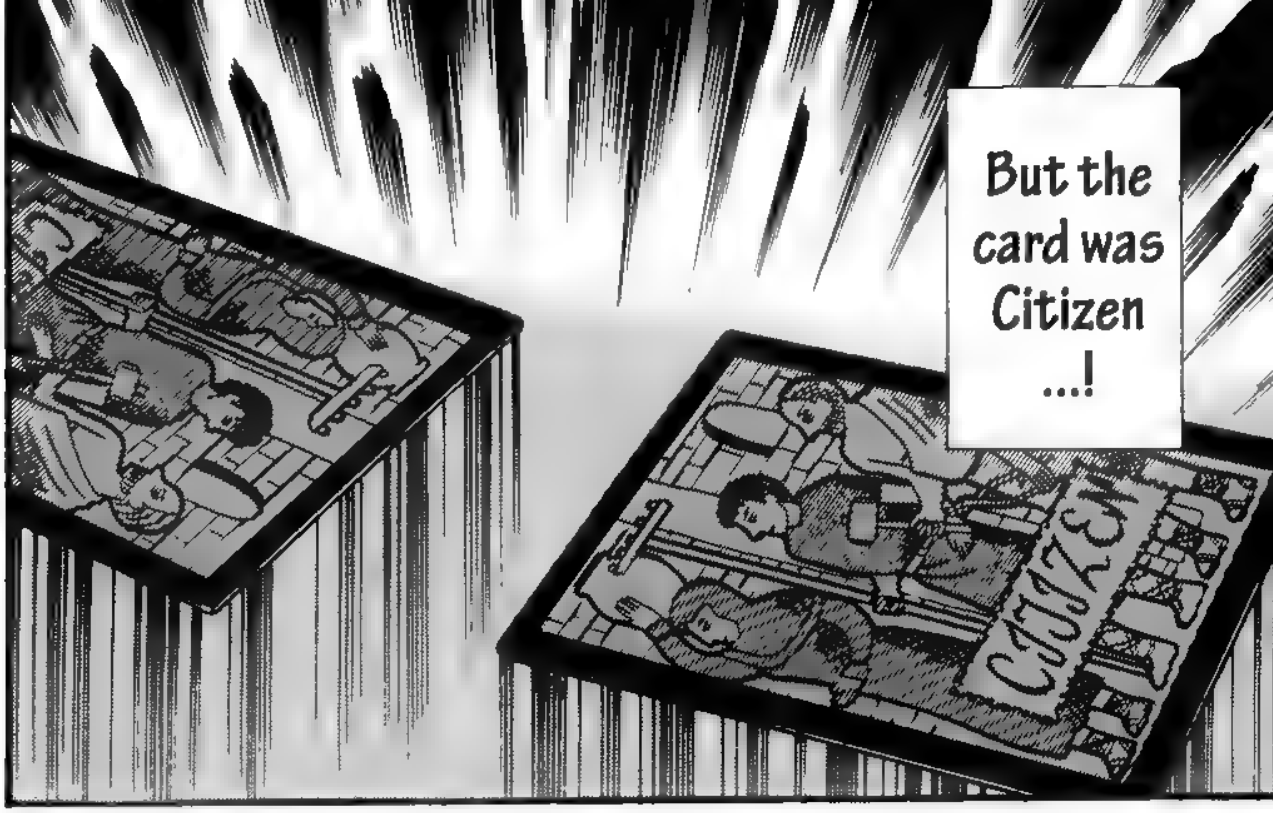


Both players have laid their cards.
The 2nd trick.

Come on ...!

Come on ...!

Come on, Slave ...!
Play ...!

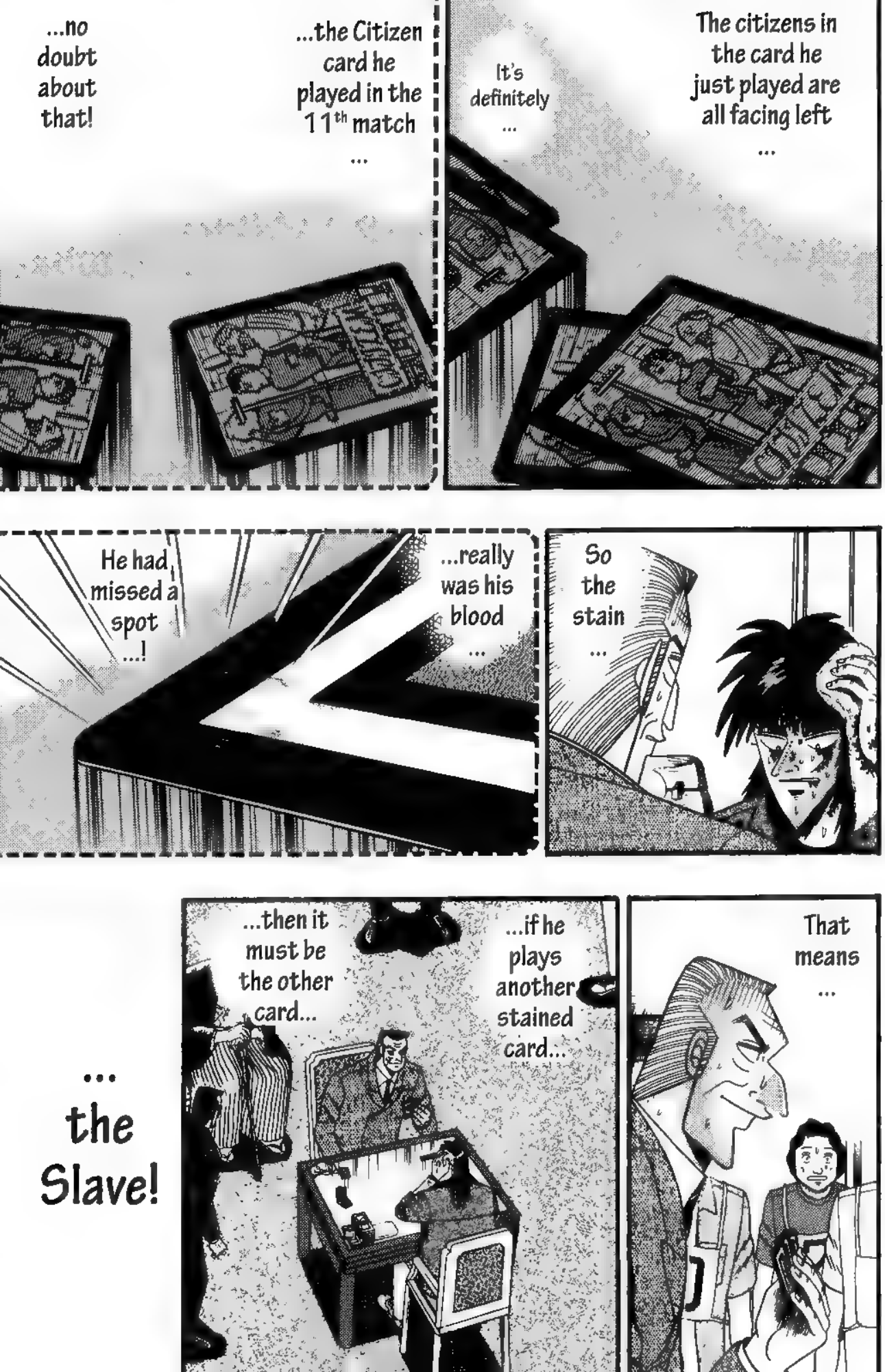

But the card was Citizen ...!

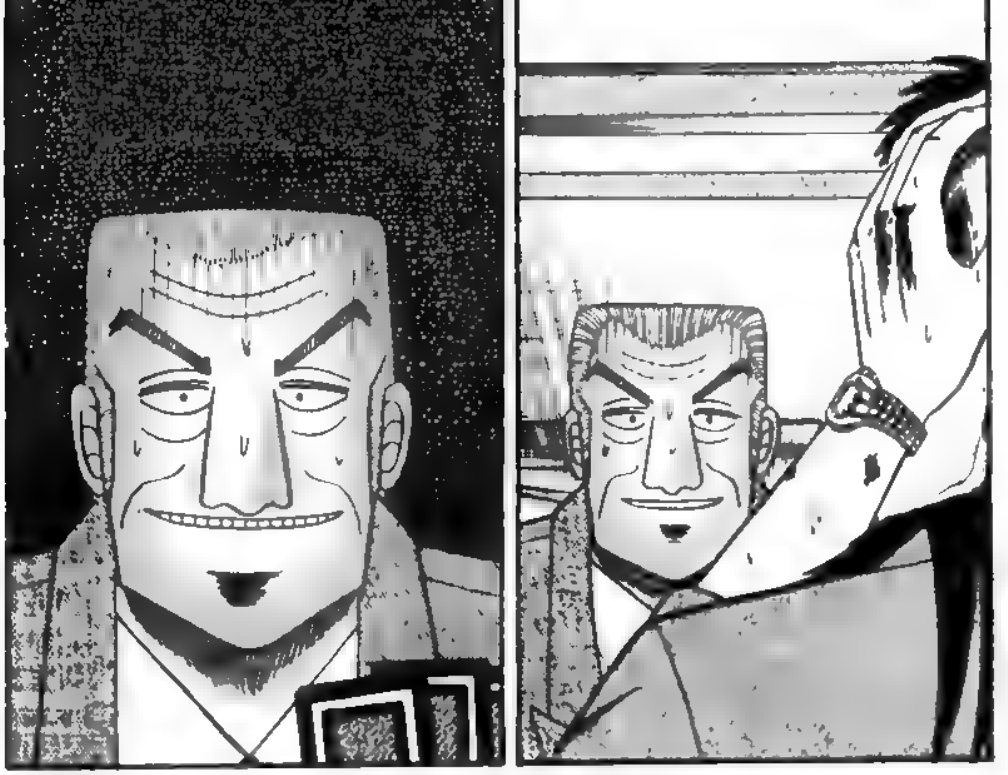
ざわ…

Ngh ...!
The second trick was another draw...!

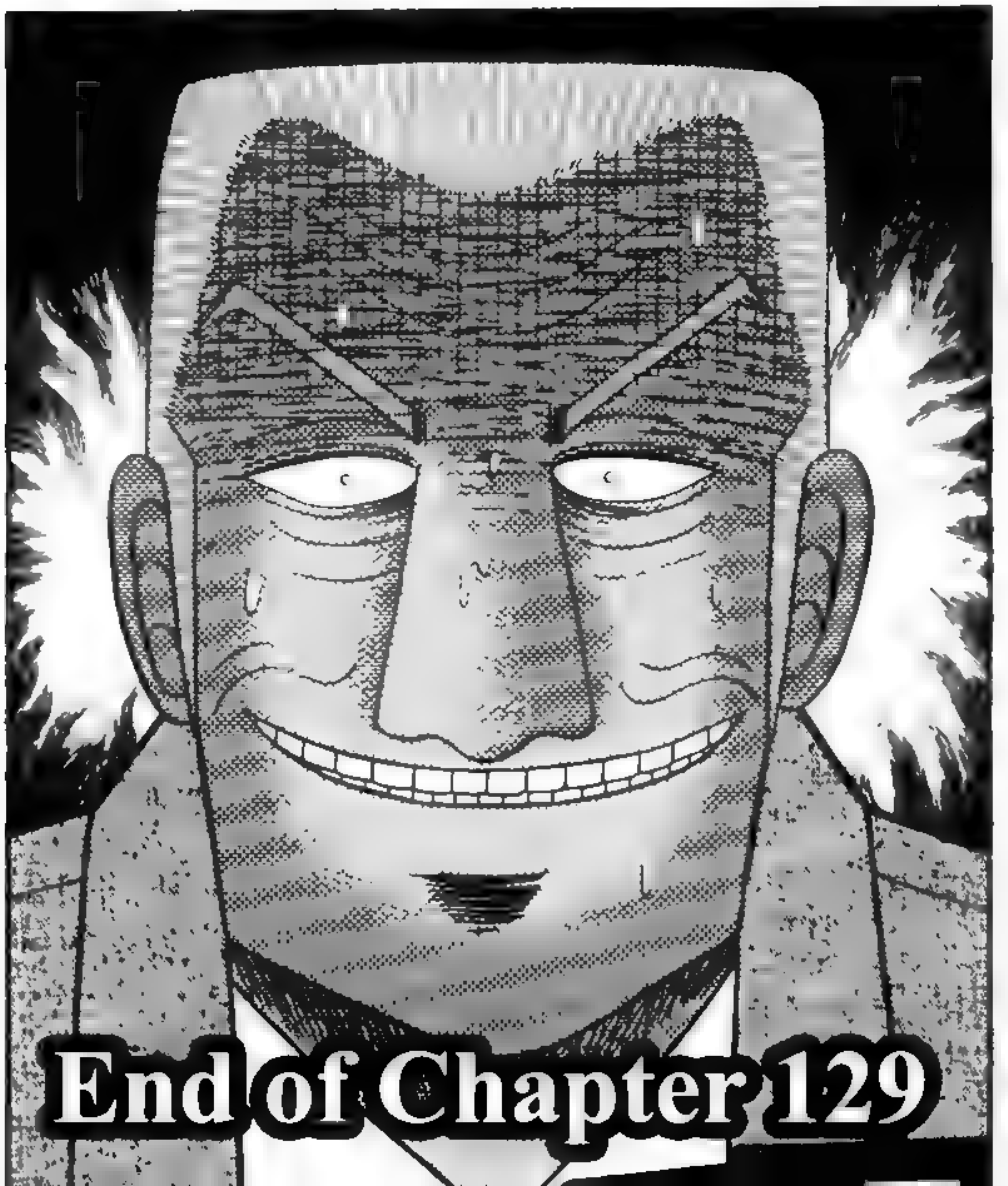
Still ...

SWIPE
……
ざわ…
ざわ


...no doubt about that!
...the Citizen card he played in the 11th match ...
It's definitely ...
The citizens in the card he just played are all facing left ...
He had missed a spot ...!
...really was his blood ...
So the stain ...
...then it must be the other card...
...if he plays another stained card...
That means ...
... the Slave!



The Slave...!



End of Chapter 129

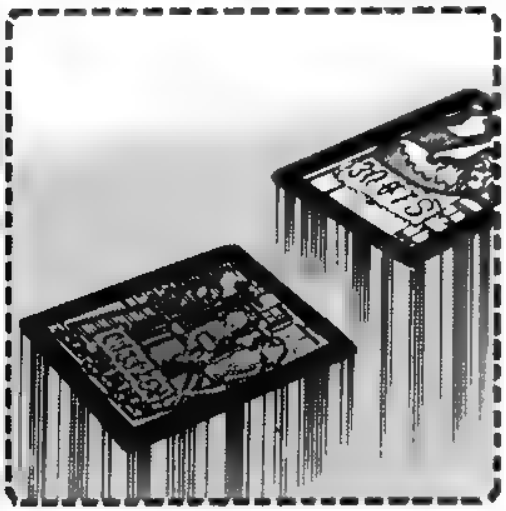
It will be the Slave ...!
The Slave ...!

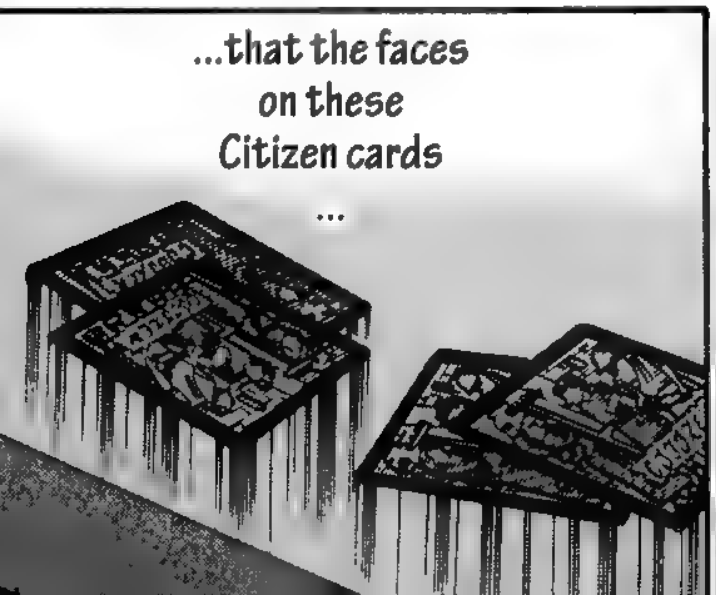
Chapter 130: Body and Soul

I'll survive ...!

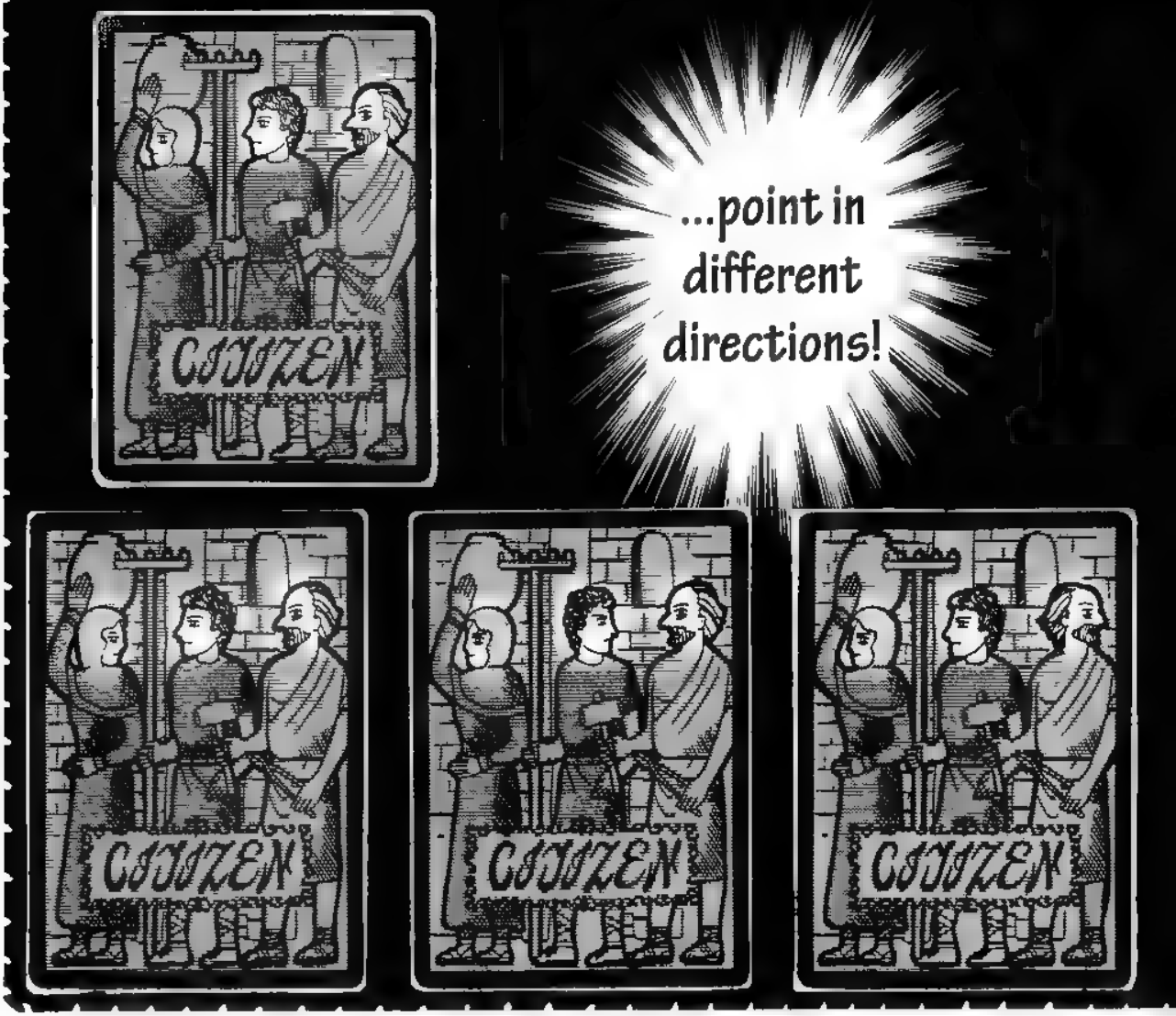
I lucked out ...

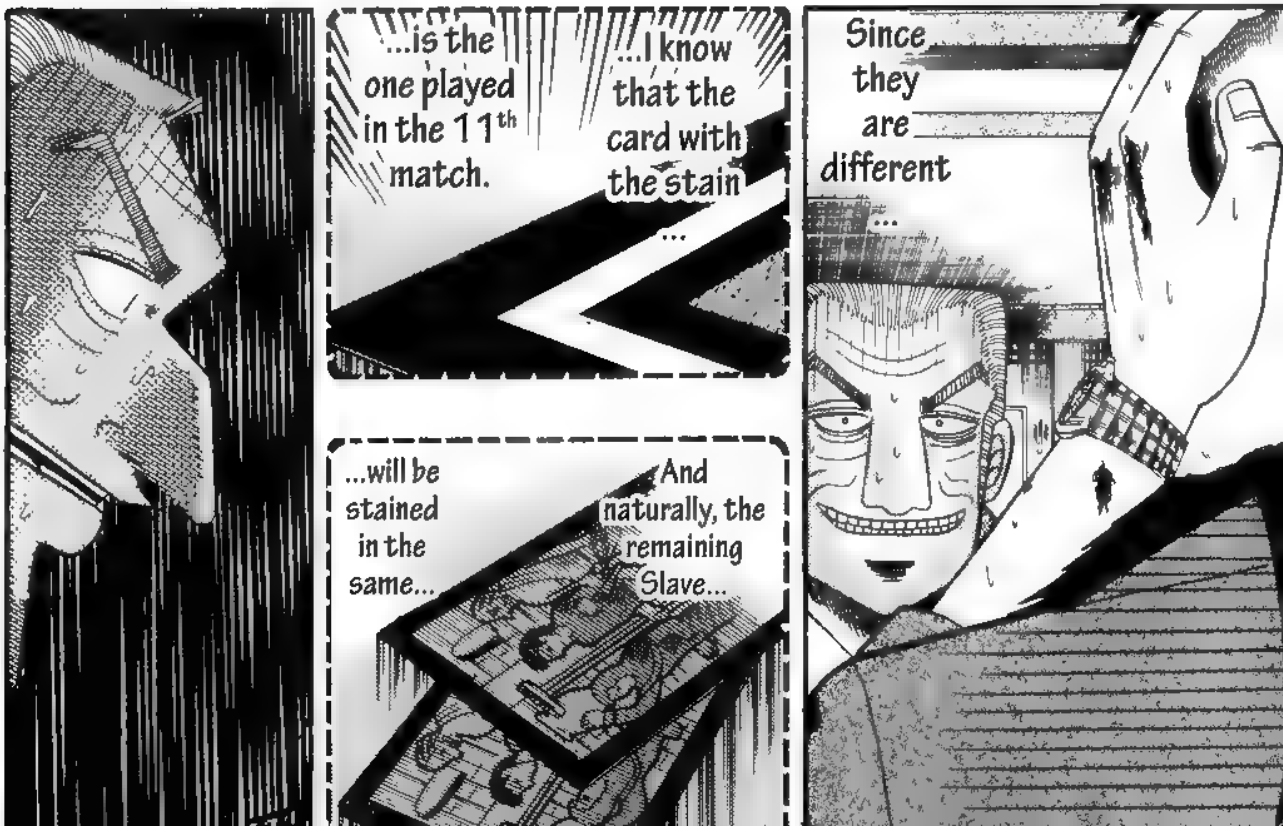
Hehehe ...

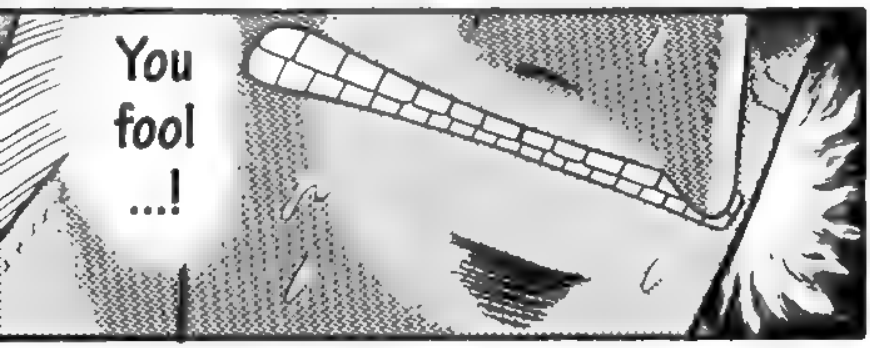

STATS


...that the faces on these Citizen cards ...

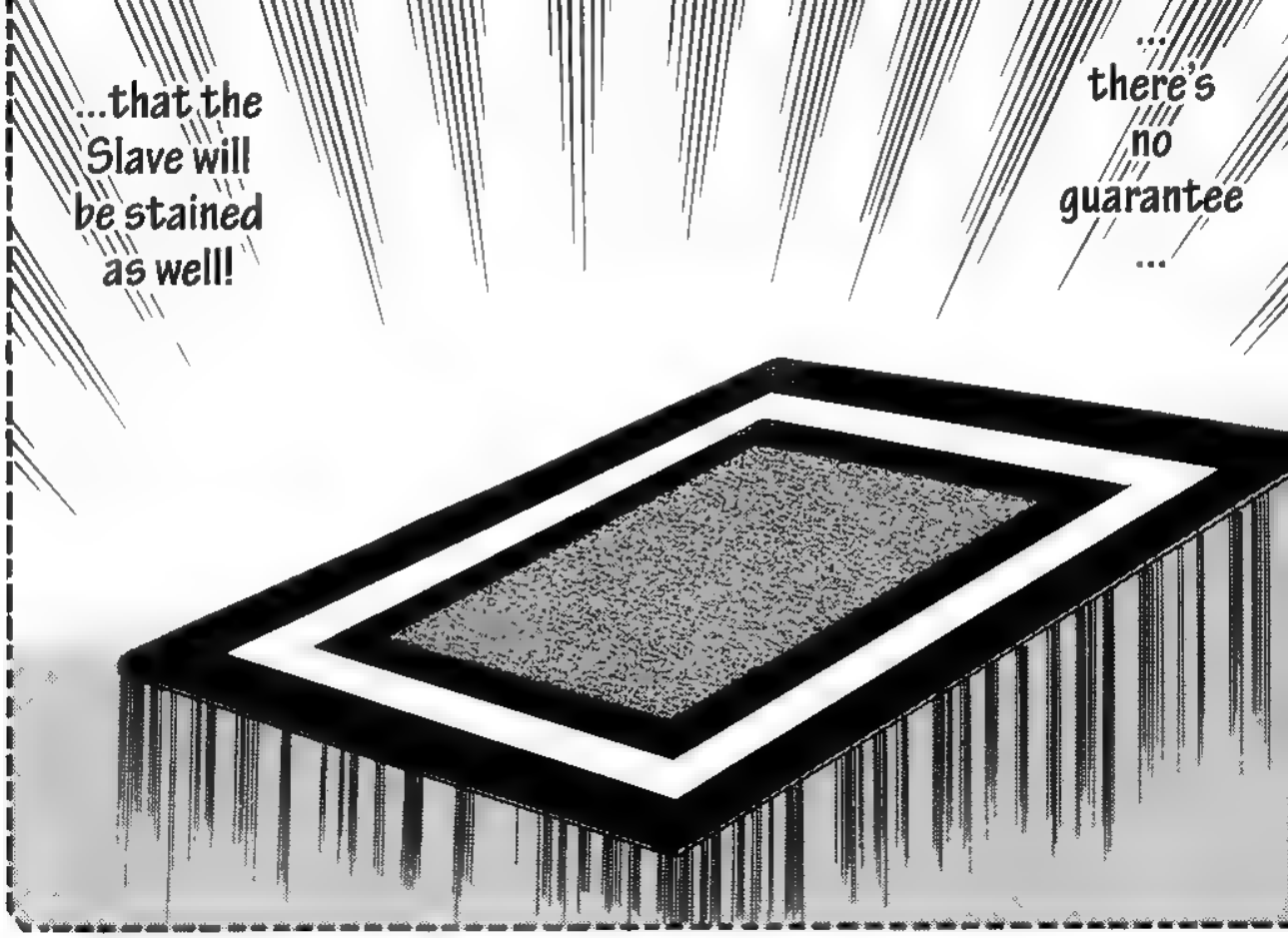
It was good for me...
CITIZEN

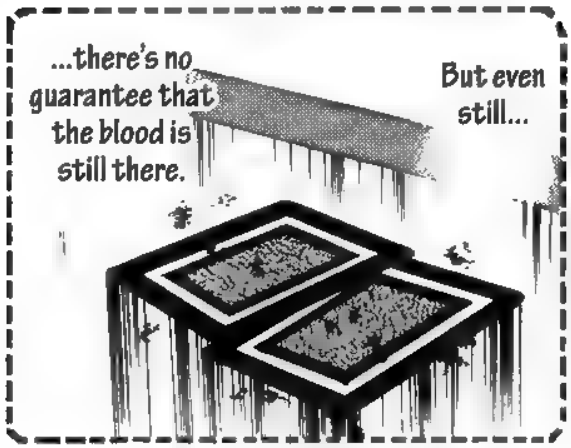

CITIZEN
...point in different directions!
CITIZEN
CITIZEN
CITIZEN


...is the one played in the 11th match.
...I know that the card with the stain ...
Since they are different ...
...will be stained in the same...
And naturally, the remaining Slave...



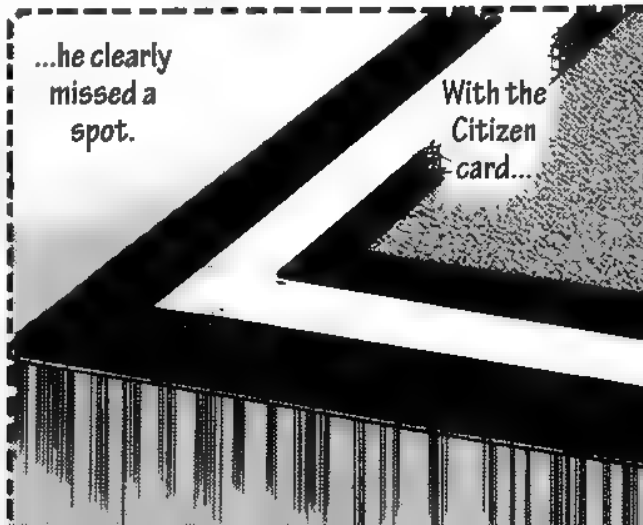
No matter how blood-stained the Citizen was ...


...that the Slave will be stained as well!
...there's no guarantee...


...there's no guarantee that the blood is still there.
But even still...

...was also splattered with blood...
It's true that the Slave card...

So the remaining Slave card...
If he had wiped it clean it wouldn't have been there.


...he clearly missed a spot.
With the Citizen card...

...might have been wiped completely clean!
Confound it ...!
... that the stain is still there!
There's no proof ...
... a fool!
What was I thinking ...!?
It's no use ...!
I've been ...

None ...!

Regardless ...
2
.....
...was not there either.
...Tonegawa could not assume that the blood...
And that meant ...
.....
The possibility could not be discounted.
The stain could be there.
... he chose Citizen!
...for Tonegawa to force a showdown.
Instead ...
...that when he led in the third trick, it was still difficult...

There was no blood on his card.
Set...!
Next up was Kaiji ...
...once flipped.
.....
Nonetheless, that was no guarantee of what his card would be...
Another draw...!
A draw...!
Their third one...!
The result was Citizen vs. Citizen!
CITIZEN

Three draws in a row...!

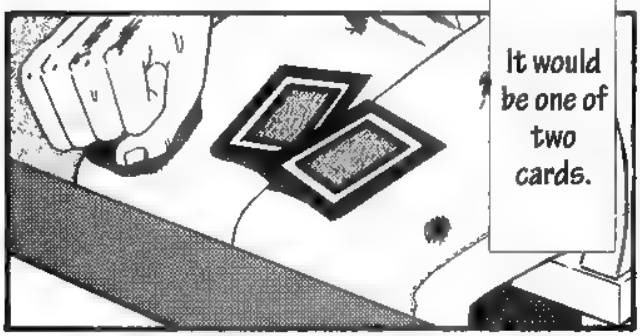
Already, it was the fourth trick ...!

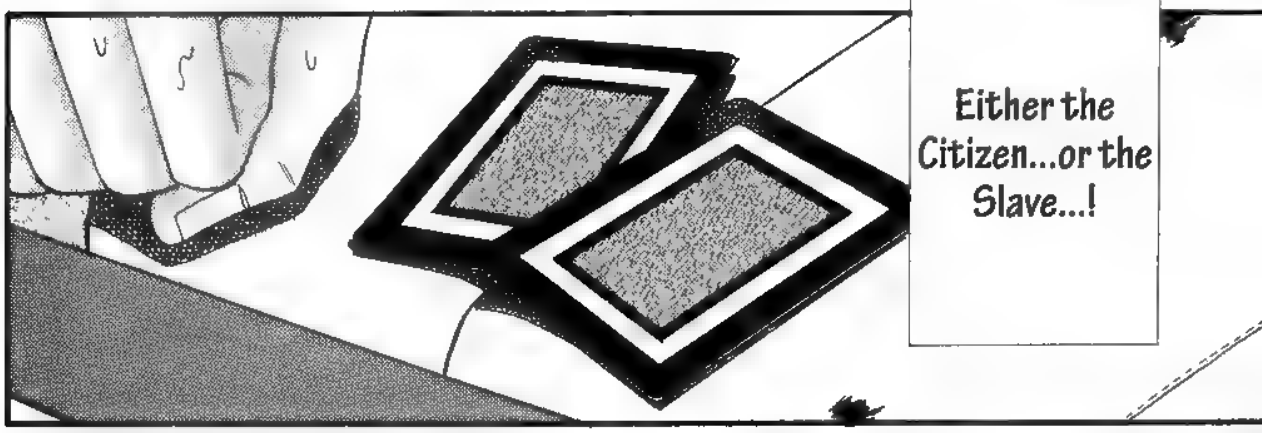
Ahhh ...!
.....

The final round of choice ...!

The fourth trick ...!

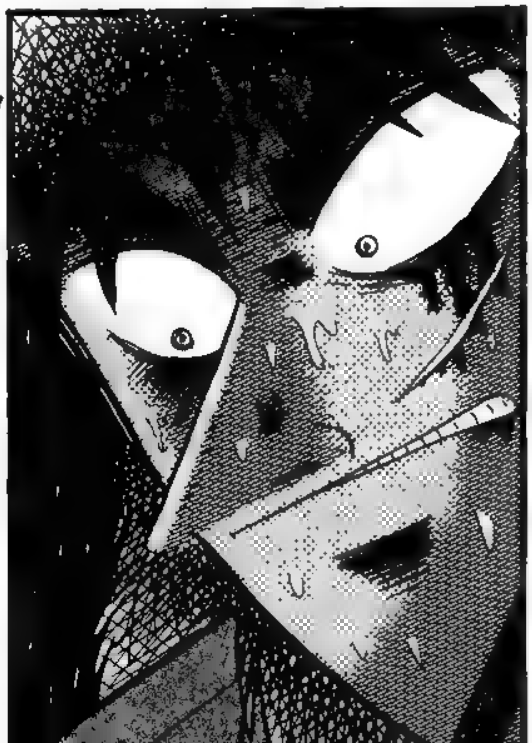
The fourth trick was Kaiji's lead ...
... from the Slave's side.


It would be one of two cards.


Either the Citizen...or the Slave...!

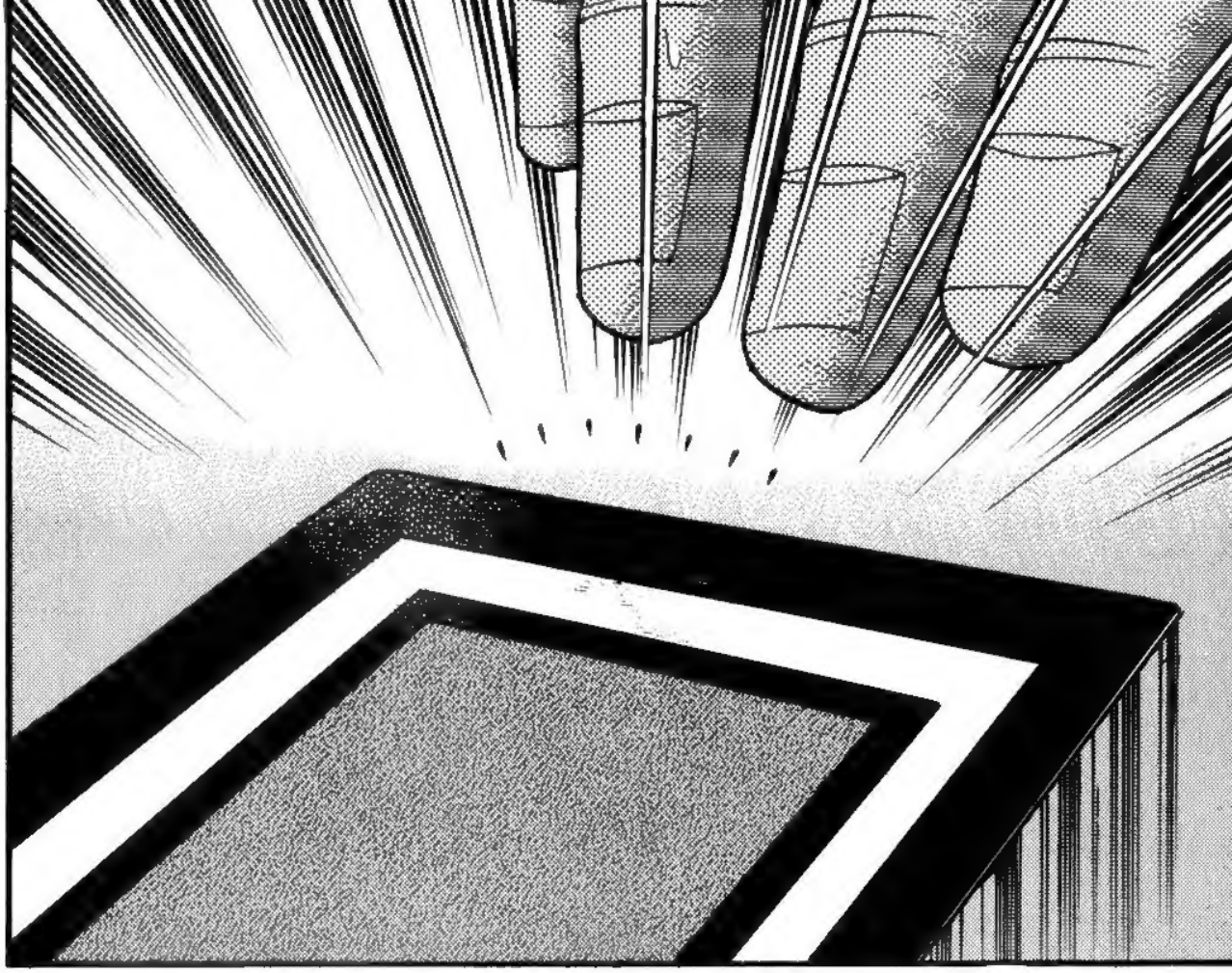
Abandon everything ...!

I'm ready ...!



The fatal card ...!
This is it ...!
38

Ngh ...!
Could he have wiped it clean...?
Did he wipe it clean...?
There's no blood ...!
It's not there ...!
The remaining one...
...is it the other card...
Or else ...



Auggghhh...!

End of Chapter 130

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